



DOZENS HELD IN BLITZ ON CRIME

BY CARL JACKSON

DOZENS of arrests were made as 100 police officers swept through Staffordshire to crack down on drugs, thefts, burglaries, attacks and suspects skipping court.

The operation – codenamed Justice – was launched by Staffordshire Police at 4am on Thursday and involved raids and warrants executed in all parts of the county including Cannock, Lichfield, Stafford, Wombourne and Kinver.

About 40 suspects were dealt with, including 25 people arrested. Four drug warrants were executed including two in Cannock where cash and drugs were seized and three people were detained for questioning. One of the drug raids also took place in Stafford. Police in the town dealt with five suspects as well as another person who had been recalled to prison.

Officers in Lichfield confirmed they had caught up with three wanted people.

The force also had three voluntary attendances to police stations.

The crackdown included officers from tactical support, road crime teams, dog support units alongside local policing teams.

Message

Throughout the day, investigators worked alongside the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure anyone arrested and subsequently charged appears in court as early as possible.

Supt Martin Brereton said: "There will be no let-up in our enforcement activity through the festive period, and this operation should again send a clear message to the people of Staffordshire that we will do our utmost to keep them safe."

"Unfortunately, some suspects will often move from one address to another trying to keep their heads down or even move out of the county to try to prevent us from finding them, but we will always catch up with them."

"This operation is about reassuring victims and helping to keep people safe. When people call Staffordshire Police for help and support following a crime, most want to see some form of sanction or justice delivered, and it is our job to make sure that this happens."

Police teams throughout the county provided updates during the day on social media.

A spokesman for Cannock police said: "Two drugs warrants have been executed in Cannock, three people detained and a quantity of drugs and cash seized."

Stafford Police posted online: "Five offenders dealt with. Plus one recalled to prison and a drugs warrant executed."

The force Twitter feed said: "So far we've dealt with 40 offenders for burglary, theft, drug dealing & failure to appear at court offences. Also executed 4 drugs warrants."

TURNING TREES INTO SCULPTURES IS A REAL HOOT



Just ow-I does he do it – sculptor Robot Cossey with one of his wood sculptures in Hednesford Park made out of felled trees

A SCULPTOR has given a new lease of life to trees felled at Hednesford Park – by carving them into unique animal sculptures.

In November, essential works commenced on a tree avenue in Hednesford Park, where 16 large, over-mature trees were felled.

Some of the trees have been pollarded, and work has started to create living sculptures from some of the trees, which were 'well past their best'.

Robot Cossey, aged 45, from Brewood, who is well known for his timber sculptural works, has made a start and already created an owl

and squirrel, working on site at the popular park. The first batch of sculptures created will also include a fox and a woodpecker.

Mr Cossey said: "I have really enjoyed working on site, speaking with the public about my work and getting ideas from them."

Cannock Chase Council together with The Friends of Hednesford Park have been working with local schools and community groups to consult on the different designs for the timber sculptures.

The wood chippings from the branches of the felled trees will also be reused in the park

as mulch materials for the woodland paths. Councillor Christine Mitchell, portfolio leader for culture and sport with Cannock Chase Council, said: "The trees that have been felled on the tree avenue were well past their best and were stunting the growth of the other trees, so this work has been essential."

"The sculptures created by Robot are absolutely fantastic."

"He is a very talented man, and I am delighted that he has agreed to the sculpture works in Hednesford Park."

● Volunteers – Page 16

POLICE

Shetland pony 'killed by dogs'

DOGS thought to have mauled a Shetland pony to death in Burntwood were impounded by police.

Monty, who was 12, was found by his owner at a specially built stable at Lambs Lodge Farm.

A Staffordshire Police spokesman said officers were called to his stable by Monty's owner Gary Cope on Christmas Eve at about 7.15am following reports he had been killed in an attack by dogs.

Three dogs were impounded while investigations are undertaken. No-one has been arrested.

SLEIGH

Santa tour raises £5k for charities

MORE than £5,000 has been raised by a Santa tour in Penkridge.

The Penkridge Round Table Sleigh Tour 2016 took in 15 routes throughout the area during December.

The last parade took place last Wednesday and saw Santa greeting people along Hailing Road, The Saplings, Marsh Lane, Leacroft Road, Orchard Crescent and Littleton Crescent among others.

In total, £5,620.24 was raised to be distributed to good causes.

COUNCIL

Last two refugee families arrive

STAFFORDSHIRE has welcomed the last two refugee families into the county as part of a special scheme.

The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme has seen 11 families – 51 individuals – settle in the county, including children ranging from one to 17 years old.

County Councillor Mark Sutton, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Staffordshire has a proud history of helping those most in need, and at the beginning of this year we pledged to help those refugees requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of torture, and women and children who are most at risk."



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Pasha gets ready to rumba on tour



Pasha Kovalev – winner

STRICTLY Come Dancing's Pasha Kovalev is coming to Staffordshire next spring. The professional dancer, who was a winner on the 2014 series, is touring with a new show, Let's Dance The Night Away.

Fifty eight performances are scheduled throughout the UK from March to May 2017.

Kovalev arrived in the UK in 2011 as one of the professionals on Strictly Come Dancing. His first celebrity partner was Chelsee Healey and they became the nation's favourites when they finished as runners-up.

In 2012 he danced with Girls Aloud star Kimberley Walsh and was once again runner-up.

In 2013 he danced with Countdown presenter Rachel Riley before finally winning the trophy in 2014 with TV presenter Caroline Flack.

After the huge success of his Life Through Dance and It's All About You tours over the last few years, Kovalev will be joined again by his spectacular dancers including special guest Anja Garnis in an evening of live singing, dance, chatting and fun.

This new production features 'breath-

taking choreography, sensational music and stunning costumes leaving the audience supercharged with positive energy and emotion'.

At all the theatres, he is performing with local dance schools.

He will be at the the Garrick Theatre in Lichfield on April 2 when children from the Elite Academy of Performing Arts and Classical Ballet dance school will be appearing.

At the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock on April 19, youngsters from the Class One Dance Academy will be performing.

'Someone must know why he was killed'

"SOMEONE knows something. He didn't just go missing. Please someone, for my children's sake, come forward."

They are the emotional words of Lavina Sohl, who is no closer to knowing how her ex-husband and father of her children Surjit Takhar died.

Mr Takhar, who at one time was a laminator at GURSO Lining in Great Wyrley, remained a missing person for seven years, but that all changed in August last year when his remains were found next to the M54. And while it solved one part of the mystery and confirmed that he had died, it led to many questions for his family.

Detectives are treating the death of Mr Takhar, from Oldbury, as murder. His remains were found next to the slip road at junction four of the M54 for Shifnal.

Ms Sohl, from Willenhall, and their twin 22-year-old daughters, Sohnia and Sohmay, returned to the site where the remains were found to make a plea for anyone who can provide answers to what happened to come forward.

Surjit Takhar

Ms Sohl had been married to Mr Takhar for 14 years but the pair split up two years before he went missing. The 43-year-old said she saw him five days before he was reported missing, when he visited her.

She said: "He knew everyone, everyone knew him. He just came across as wanting to do anything for anyone. Once you met him, you would never forget him.

"We are still waiting for answers. Back then, I was told he had moved to a different country. But I had my suspicions that something had happened to him."

She said the family were desperate to lay Mr Takhar to rest, which they have not been able to do because of the criminal investigation. She added: "It's been really hard, it still is. Someone knows something. He didn't just go missing. He's been put there. Please someone, for my children's sake, come forward."

Mr Takhar, who also has a 21-year-old son called Harry, worked as a delivery driver in the year before he vanished. He was known as Skin among family and friends. Anyone with information should call 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Children take fundraising lead



Some of the Glenthorne pupils who supported the appeal, with Year 5 teacher Daniel Thompson's dog Belle

YOUNGSTERS at a Cheslyn Hay school took the lead in their festive shoebox appeal.

Glenthorne Primary pupils appealed to dog-lovers to donate items in aid of a charity that helps save the lives of abandoned puppies in Romania.

Many members of the public donated items they thought a puppy might require, such as treats, food,

blankets, toys, collars, leads and dog bowls.

Year 6 pupil Tyler Day and his family recently rescued and adopted a puppy from Romania through the charity, Bid to Save a Stray. Tyler's mother and her friend collected the shoeboxes and drove to Sheffield to deliver them to the charity.

Nicola Turner, Year 6 teacher

and deputy head at the Glenthorne Drive school, said: "As a school we feel it is important to encourage our pupils to give to others who are less fortunate, whether it be home or abroad, animal or human.

"The children loved collecting items to donate to the rescue dogs and I was extremely pleased by how hard the children worked to support the charity."

Chief in call for support of business to aid growth

THE director of one of the region's Chamber of Commerce has urged the Government to do more to support business growth.

Chris Plant, director of Cannock Chase's Chamber of Commerce, made the remark while reacting to The Bank of England's decision to keep the UK's main interest rate at a record low of 0.25 per cent.

He said: "The Bank of England's decision to keep interest rates unchanged was widely expected.

"The minutes from the latest MPC meeting confirm that although a change in interest rates is off the table for now, they remain ready to act if there is a material change in economic conditions.

"Further expected rises in the US interest rate in the coming months are likely to place further downward pressure on sterling, and could play a part in UK monetary policy decision-making over the next year.

"However, unlike the US Federal Reserve, the Bank of England is expected to face a tricky near-term trade-off between tackling rising inflation and slowing economic growth.

"A prolonged period of monetary stability is the most likely scenario. We currently expect that interest rates will remain on hold through 2017 and into 2018.

"With the impact of monetary policy close to its limits, it is vital that the Government does more to support business growth, including addressing the rising input costs faced by businesses."

Cuts 'will not lead to a rise in crime'

STAFFORDSHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner has claimed that multi-million pound cuts to the Youth Offenders Service will not lead to an increase in crime.

Matthew Ellis made the statement after it was revealed that budget proposals drawn up by Staffordshire County Council include reducing funding to the service by £400,000 next year and £500,000 for the following four years.

Mr Ellis has said that the youth offending case-load in the county had almost halved in the last two years and the savings would be made by consolidating 'back-office' services.

He said the 'rationalisation' would see more money reinvested in front-line youth offending services including prevention work.

Light Up a Life tree targeted by vandals

VANDALS ripped off and damaged lights hung on a tree outside Lichfield Cathedral in memory of loved ones.

The Christmas tree, used by St Giles Hospice for its annual Light Up a Life event, was targeted between 11pm on December 16 and 6am the following day.

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Tributes to rider who had 'great big heart'

"HE lit up a room and raised everyone's spirit when he arrived."

An emotional tribute has been paid to a 54-year-old motorcyclist described as 'one of a kind' by his family, after he died following a collision in Hednesford. Wayne Hussain of Stafford died in hospital the day after the incident last Tuesday at the junction of Rugeley Road and Station Road.



Wayne Hussain

In a statement, his brother Shayne said: "Wayne was truly one of a kind, they really did break the mould when he entered this world. With his great big heart and razor-sharp humour, he made so many people happy and left an eternal impression on everyone that knew him."

"To so many people, from all walks of life, the mere mention of his name raises a smile and a story. Wayne was always full of fun and laughter."

"No party was complete without him, often leading the singing with his guitar and Beatles songbook to hand. Everyone loved being around Wayne because he made all of their lives so much more fun and interesting. Deep down, everyone wanted to be like Wayne, a free-spirit that refused to be caged by the humdrum daily routine and social conventions."

"He was a hero for all of us and we lived our dreams through him."

He added: "He treated everybody with decency and respect and never had a bad word for anyone."

Two in hospital after road crash

TWO people were taken to hospital after a two-car crash in Cannock.

A man pulled free from his car by firefighters using hydraulic cutting equipment was taken to New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton after the accident in Wolverhampton Road, Wedges Mills. Another person was taken to the same hospital. They complained of neck and back pain.

A Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service spokesman said four people were treated at the side of the road following the crash and did not require any further treatment.

Paramedics were called to the incident by Staffordshire Police at 12.30pm last Tuesday and left at 2.10pm. Firefighters, made up of two crews from Cannock, also attended.

Burglars snatch bikes worth £7k

SEVEN bikes worth a total of £7,500 were stolen from a house in Prince Rupert's Way, Lichfield.

Anyone with information about the burglary can call Staffordshire Police on 101 quoting 117 of December 16.

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No way! Car damages historic bridge



The damaged Essex Bridge

A HISTORIC bridge near Shugborough Estate has been left badly damaged after being struck by a car.

The landmark Essex Bridge, which connects the estate with Great Haywood over the River Trent, is Grade I listed and is the longest remaining packhorse bridge in England.

But the bridge, which is wide enough for pedestrians only, is now in need of repair after the driver of a Volkswagen Polo took a wrong turn and skidded into a parapet.

Parts of it fell off, and sandbags and barriers have been put in place by

Staffordshire County Council until repairs can be carried out. The incident took place early on Tuesday last week.

Councillor Alan Perkins, who represents the Haywood and Hixon ward, said: "The bridge is a national landmark. There's usually three locked posts across the road stopping people from driving through, but the middle one has been out of action for some time because it has been broken."

"The bridge widens out just the other side of the Lock House, but only for a couple of yards, and then it narrows to a footbridge. It could

never fit a car through. There will be some stonemasons organised to come and get it reinstated - it won't be left in this state."

Built in 1550 by the then Earl of Essex for Queen Elizabeth I so that when she visited the estate she could go hunting in the woodland nearby, the bridge is now the longest remaining packhorse bridge in England, with 14 of its original 40 span arches left.

Shugborough project manager Hayley Mival said: "As this is a public right of way, we'll be working with the council to repair the damage caused."

Big-name shops lining up for £10m retail site

UP to 12 new shops, a 'drive thru' restaurant and scores of parking spaces are set to transform part of Burntwood in a £10 million project being discussed next week.

Developers want to build on the former Olaf Johnson site off Cannock Road and on land next to Milestone Way.

Documents submitted to Lichfield District Council show that Iceland, discount store B&M and a B&M Garden Centre are among the tenants who will move in once the development on the 2.09-hectare site is complete.

Initial plans for 16 shops on the site were first approved in 2007 but delayed by developers because of the credit crunch. It would have been the first phase of the Burntwood Town Centre regeneration scheme.

It is proposed 271 parking spaces are created for shoppers. Owners London and Cambridge Estates propose limiting motorists to three hours' parking time because of the lack of public parking serving the wider Burntwood town centre area. There would also be other spaces for 32 bikes there.

Improve

Town, district and county councillor Sue Woodward said: "This is a really welcome development for Burntwood. People have said for a very long time that we need more retail choice. But we have got to be conscious that we also have little shopping centres that have worked to improve their appearance."

As part of the main block of the development, between six and nine shops will be built, stretching the length of its car park.

Another block would contain three shops. The proposed drive thru restaurant would be built in front of the first block.

Burntwood's county councillor Jeff Sheriff said he was in favour of the development as long as it proves to be 'useful'. An opponent of building more homes in Burntwood, he said: "It is principally housing I'm against. We don't want to take up what little space we have got left with housing."

Burntwood Town Council's planning committee will discuss the plans at a meeting on January 5 before Lichfield District Council's equivalent decides at a later date whether to approve the scheme. It is hoped motorists will get to the site by using the Morrisons roundabout in Milestone Way. Another arm would be built on the roundabout serving that store.



Jason Levy from Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, holding a replica of the monument, which will actually stand at 4.6m tall

Take-off for air medics' tribute

A SOD-CUTTING ceremony was held at the M6 Toll Norton Canes Roadchef Services, marking the start of groundworks for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's 25th anniversary legacy monument.

The 4.6 metre, one ton, stainless steel 'Air Pulse' sculpture will sit proudly on a public hill area at the services adjacent to Cannock Chase.

The monument, designed and created by acclaimed sculptor, Richard Thornton, will stand as a poignant legacy to recognise the lifesaving work of the dedicated flight paramedics, doctors and pilots, the impact the charity has made on countless lives, and the unfaltering loyalty of its supporters.

Known for its award-winning work and Per-shore-based Poole Phillips Architects was selected to oversee the project. The Air Pulse monument will be surrounded by over 2000 'dedication bricks' for those who would like to remember loved ones. If you are interested in learning more about Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, please visit www.midlandsairambulance.com.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Club hands over charity cheques

WYRLEY Juniors presented cheques for £320 each to the Great Wyrley, Essington and Cheslyn Hay branches of the Royal British Legion, following its 'stick-on poppy' initiative.

The football club has raised more than £2,000 for the Poppy Appeal over the last three years. It also handed over 100 presents to Birmingham Children's Hospital, as well as several bags of items to local foodbanks.

The club is looking for girls aged four upwards to join its ranks as it looks to create more teams next season. Call 07836 202764 for details.

£35k grant will assist start-ups

STAFFORDSHIRE Chambers of Commerce has been given £35,000 to run business start-up and mentoring sessions.

The NatWest Skills and Opportunities Fund gave the money so that the organisation can run the sessions for women and people from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.

Adole Cope, who is head of business growth at Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, said: "We are very excited to be a part of this amazing programme."

Support offered for Parkinson's

REGULAR support sessions are held in Penkridge for those affected by Parkinson's Disease.

Penkridge Parkinson's Support meets on the fourth Wednesday in the month from 10am to 12.30pm at the Haling Dene Centre, Cannock Road.

It runs social events, annual outings and monthly coffee mornings from April to September. Refreshments are provided. Call 01785 712 005, email ppsg1@outlook.com or visit the website at ppsg1.wordpress.com

Course introduction to mountain biking

INSPIRING Healthy Lifestyles is hosting an introduction to mountain biking course for 16 to 25 year-olds, starting on Saturday, January 14.

"Whether you're a beginner or simply need a refresh of the basics, our course is just for you, with the added benefit of meeting other fantastic people and getting active," a spokesman for the organisation said.

The weekly sessions start at 10am. To sign up, or to check out the details, go to www.eventbrite.co.uk

Salvation Army venues

DUE to building work, Cannock Salvation Army will join with the Hednesford Church and Community Centre, in Anglesley Street, at 10am on New Year's Day. From January 8 they will be sharing the facilities at Mill Street Methodist. Sunday worship will be at 11am and 6pm.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A Happy New Year to you all and my continuing thanks. This column could not appear without your help. Every day, I receive letters, cards and emails bristling with wit, inventiveness and trivia, plus one or two stinkers. Here are some of the best of those items from 2016 which began with: "A reader writes . . .

"ONLY by banning the sale of ready-shredded cheese can we make Britain grate again."

"IN the great scheme of things, are the US presidential elections and the poppy row with Fifa more or less momentous than Toblerone re-designing its chocolate bar?"

"I FOLLOWED a car on the M5 and thought its radiator had blown. Turned out the driver was smoking one of those vapour cigs."

"MY daughter tells me that whenever she saw a woman put on a hat she thought the hatpin went straight through her head."

"I WAS sad to read your report on the death of the man who invented predictive text. After the funeral, will he be created or burped?"

"WHEN my wife was having our first baby in 1980 she was advised by the health visitor to drink a bottle of Mackeson a day. She didn't like the taste. Thankfully, I did."

"If any vegan or vegetarian sends me their unwanted £5 notes (containing tallow), I will ensure they are disposed of humanely."

A READER writes: "I don't know anybody who looks like John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown or David Cameron. So why do I know loads of people who look like Jeremy Corbyn?"



"PAUSE and think about Chinese investment in the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station."

I bought a Chinese kettle and after five days it broke."

A READER writes: "I don't know anybody who looks like John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown or David Cameron. So why do I know loads of people who look like Jeremy Corbyn?"

"WHEN did the fashion industry decide to stitch padded jackets and bodywarmers into horizontal tubes? We are quite lardy enough without dressing up as the Michelin Man."

"I SAW a recipe published in a glossy mag for slow-roast belly pork using 'pork with the bone in'. Since when have pigs had belly bones?"

"LOVED your article on Internet buying. I have sold a couple of homing pigeons on eBay. So far I have made £160."

"AROUND here we get women putting the rubbish out in their pyjamas, at midday. Recently in Telford I saw a woman mowing the lawn while wearing pyjamas."

"WHEN it's colder in the house than it is outside, it's a baked Alaska day. No it isn't. It's outclement."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

History centre funding bid delayed

A FUNDING bid to help pay for a £4 million history centre in Stafford has been delayed – but bosses are adamant it will still be opened on schedule.

An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to create the Stafford History Centre was supposed to be submitted this month. However it will not now be made until early 2018. Staffordshire County Council

has already been told by the fund it will receive £333,350 for the development phase of the plans. However, the delayed application would have been for £3,965,590 to cover the delivery phase.

The plans would see the William Salt Library in Stafford and Lichfield record office close for good and all archive material – including 10 million historical records, 43,000 photos

and 1,800 pieces of art moved to an improved record office in Eastgate Street. County Councillor Gill Heath, cabinet member for communities said: "Delaying the bid allows us to revise and improve the project brief to give us the best possible chance of getting the stage two funding."

"This delay won't affect the proposed completion of the project, with the Stafford History Centre sched-

uled to open in 2021." The contents of the Grade II-listed William Salt Library building in Eastgate Street, where the library has been housed since 1918, will be moved to an extended Staffordshire Record Office.

The move will see the closure of the Lichfield Record Office, so that the majority of Staffordshire's historic material would be housed under one roof.

MP Milling focuses on problem of fly-parking

RESIDENTS anger over 'HGV fly-parking' has been taken up in Parliament by an MP

Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling says she has been contacted by people and businesses in Rugeley who are growing frustrated at the number of lorries parking up overnight in the streets and business parks in the area.

With no facilities available locally the Cannock Chase MP has again urged for action to be taken to address the problem as well as highlighting the need for provision to be made for HGV facilities to be included when plans are being drawn up for distribution centres.

Over the last year, Ms Milling has been in regular contact with Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Police on behalf of residents and businesses and recently met with representatives from Amazon.

Amanda Milling said: "I am getting an increasing number of complaints from residents and businesses from Rugeley who are understandably fed up of having large lorries littering our streets and business parks."

"Despite months of dialogue with various organisations they are still faced with the problem of HGVs parking outside their homes and businesses. If anything, it is getting worse. Some of the problems people have faced in terms of the litter being left by drivers is frankly disgusting."

"I will continue pushing all the relevant organisations to address the issue of fly-parking as we can't go on like this."

Rail freight hub protest backed

A GROUP protesting against plans to build a freight hub at Gailey has been backed by a parish council.

The West Midlands Interchange is set to be built between junction 12 of the M6 and the main A449 Stafford Road on the southern side of the A5 under plans announced this year.

The scheme will include a rail terminal with 17 warehouses and service buildings covering 800,000 square metres.

After a meeting held with members of the Stop The Gailey Freight Hub action group, Councillor David Clift of Essington Parish Council said they will lend its support to the group as it rallies against the plans.

Councillor Clift said: "So far they have had a great reaction from the public and MPs."

Homes site manager picks up top award

SPENCER Edwards, a site manager for Miller Homes, has received the top prize in the housebuilder's Safety, Health and Environmental Awards.

It is in recognition of the high standards set at the 75-home Roman Heights in Streethay, Lichfield.

Primary school told it 'requires improvement'

By Jack Averty

A SCHOOL in Chasetown has been told to improve by the education watchdog.

Springhill Primary Academy in Mossbank Avenue has been rated 'requires improvement' by Ofsted.

Inspectors raised concerns that the work set is not challenging pupils and, as a result, too few are reaching higher standards. The rating was given with regard to its 'quality of teaching, learning and assessment' and pupil outcomes.

A report prepared after an inspection last month read: "There is a lack of consistently good teaching across subjects in Key Stages 1 and 2. While there is good teaching in school, this lack of consistency means that pupils in some classes do not achieve the outcomes of which they are capable."

"Expectations from teachers of what pupils are capable of achieving are not high enough, particularly for the most able pupils. As a result, too few pupils reach the higher standards or work at greater depth."

Effective

This is the first time Ofsted has inspected Springhill Primary Academy but when it was called Springhill Primary School it was rated 'inadequate'. However, in this new report the academy has been praised for its leadership, early-years provision and the 'development, welfare and behaviour' of the pupils. It was rated 'good' in all three categories.

Springhill headteacher Andy How said: "Standards at Springhill Academy have improved a great deal since joining the REAch2 Academy Trust. The report demonstrates our 'strong and effective leadership structure' as well as our 'exciting and relevant curriculum'."

"Many other positives came out of the report, including 'ongoing improvements in the quality of teaching and improving outcomes for pupils'. We are also pleased that the report shows how much the pupils enjoy learning here, that they express pride in their school, and that our classrooms are lively, bright and inviting places."

Adam's big thank you for recovery



Anna Pendle, Adam Parker, Caroline Fearn, his mum and Katie West from the Air Ambulance all with cheques

A 13-YEAR-OLD boy who was hit by a car this summer, has made an amazing recovery and presented cheques to thank the Midlands Air Ambulance and Birmingham Children's Hospital for saving his life.

Adam Parker ended up in an induced coma for three days after he was struck on his way to school in Heath Hayes on June 13. He has had to undergo extensive surgery for the injuries he suffered, including a broken jaw and arm, a serious fracture to his leg, superficial facial injuries and internal organ damage. However the youngster has made a miraculous recovery in just a few short months, now only relying on crutches to get about, and he and his family and friends were keen to thank those who made it possible through a big fundraising effort.

His mother Caroline Fearn, 44, has been touched by the support of colleagues and customers at her workplace A.I.D. Fuel Oils Group in Huntington, Cannock, who have raised nearly £3,000 in total for the two charities through collections, dress-down days and even climbing Snowdon.

Caroline took part in this mammoth challenge herself along with 15 others, and it's safe to say she didn't enjoy the experience. "The worst part was the start, the end – all of it! But to get all this support has been lovely. We can't thank everyone enough," she said, struggling to hold back the tears.

You can still donate to the cause by going to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/happyfeetclimbch>

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Children's home fails to improve standards

A CHILDREN'S home has been criticised by the education watchdog as its standards continue to dwindle.

Cherry Tree in Stafford, run by Pine Forest Homes, was rated as 'requires improvement' by Ofsted earlier this year – now a second report says the home has not improved since the last inspection.

Pine Forest Homes are based in Hednesford and also have homes in Cannock and Stone.

In August, inspectors found the home had not had a manager since December 2015, staff did not consistently support and promote positive behaviour, risk assessments were not robust, young people's views and opinions were not acted upon and workers were not receiving appropriate training.

Inspectors returned in November but found that the home had 'declined in effectiveness'. It still has no manager. A report said: "Although managers completed an initial impact risk assessment prior to a recent new admission, they subsequently failed to risk-assess known areas of risk-taking behaviour, for example carrying a knife, following admission."

"This means that there is an absence of effective strategies and interventions to guide staff or to encourage young people to take responsibility for their own safety."

"This has led to a lack of robust risk management, and young people are not effectively safeguarded."

No one from the firm was unavailable for comment.

£300 Betty Boop statues are stolen

A PAIR of 3ft-tall Betty Boop statues worth £300 were stolen from a shop in Cannock.

Thieves targeted House of Italy at Virage Park, Green Lane, and used a brick to smash a window before reaching in to grab the figurines sometime between 5pm on December 16 and 10am the following day.

A Staffordshire Police statement said: "We would like to warn businesses to be on their guard at this time and to make sure their premises are as secure as possible at all times and that any alarm and CCTV systems are in good working order and switched on."

"Anyone with any information regarding this incident is asked to contact Staffordshire Police."

Church will make way for housing

A CHURCH building in Great Haywood which has been unused for over seven years will be used for housing after councillors gave their approval.

The former Mount Zion Congregational Church stands in Main Road.

Vital message on new ambulance fleet



Two of the new ambulances

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service is rolling out 66 of the most advanced vehicles ever seen.

The vehicles use technology normally associated with the aerospace industry and are fitted with CCTV.

They come with the key message emblazoned on the rear that there is an alternative to 999. It is part of a joint initiative with NHS England to highlight that patients don't always need to dial the emergency number to receive urgent care. They are advised instead to use 111.

WMAS chief executive Anthony

Marsh said: "These new ambulances are some of the most sophisticated emergency vehicles in the world. Not only are they packed full of the latest technology to help patients, but they are more comfortable and efficient than ever before, using technology piloted in the aerospace industry."

Dr Helen Thomas, national medical adviser for Integrated Urgent Care at NHS England, said: "It's really good to see the NHS 111 non-emergency number sitting alongside 999 on these ambulances."

"This gives a clear message that

999 is for life-threatening emergencies – but if you're in need of urgent help and it's not an emergency there is another number to call – NHS 111."

Tony Page, WMAS fleet general manager, said: "We have worked closely with our staff and the manufacturers to design the vehicles so they are easy to use and easier to clean and restock."

Communications director Murray MacGregor added: "It is great that we have been able to work with NHS England to get such important messages out to the public."

Two further years of misery on Chase line

OVERCROWDING misery for Chase Line passengers could continue for the next two years, it is feared.

Rail operators London Midland has said it will not increase the capacity on its line, which runs from Walsall to Cannock Chase, until 2018.

The line has been dogged with problems in recent months, with the biggest complaint being overcrowded trains.

Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling fears the overcrowding could lead to a 'serious accident or injury'. She added she was 'fearful for her safety' when travelling on an early morning service last month.

But the overcrowding could now be set to continue for another two years. In a letter to Walsall North MP David Winnick, a spokesman for London Midland said: "We have added hundreds of extra seats at peak times on the Rugeley line since we took over the service in 2007. Unfortunately, there is a national shortage of diesel trains so we can't get any more capacity until the introduction of electric services in 2018."

Passengers

"The new service will be capable of carrying 50 per cent more passengers than our current diesel fleet."

The letter, penned by London Midland's head of corporate affairs Francis Thomas, was in response to Mr Winnick writing to the company's chief executive raising commuters' concerns over the line.

Mr Winnick said: "I very much doubt whether the letter which I will be sending on to constituents who wrote to me will give them any satisfaction. All the indications seem to be that no improvement at all is likely for the reasons stated, namely the shortage of diesel trains, so there won't be any greater capacity until the introduction of electric services in 2018. Depending on when in that year, it could be another two years at least."

Ms Milling said: "London Midland have to address this issue of overcrowding. If they do not address next year's situation, they will have completely failed the Chase Line customers for yet another year."

Mr Thomas said: "I am sorry to the people who have experienced the problems that have come with the enormous growth this line has seen, but they will reap the benefits when the electrification is finished."

Students make voices heard



Councillors Mark Sutton and Ben Adams with the winning team from Cannock Chase High School

YOUNG people from across Staffordshire were given the chance to talk about what matters to them most in a special debate at the County Council chamber.

Teenagers got the chance to voice their opinions on a range of topics affecting young people in front of local decision makers, including the need for mental health within education, lowering the voting age to 16 and more.

The event, at County Buildings

in Stafford, was hosted by Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) in partnership with Staffordshire County Council.

The young people, aged 12-to-18 were supported by parents and school staff. Three teams entered, including Cannock Chase High, which won the debate, and an independents team made up of young people from different schools around the county.

Councillor Mark Sutton, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "It's important to hear what our young people have to say and the issues affecting them and this was a great event that gave them that platform to air their views."

Phil Pusey, chief executive for SCVYS, said: "It was a pleasure to chair the debate, and inspiring to see the effort put in by the participants to researching the topics."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Survey examines county's livestock

FARMERS and owners of livestock are being urged to take part in a county-wide survey.

Staffordshire County Council's animal health team are promoting their service through a consultation which is running until March 31. "We are constantly striving to improve the quality of the service provided," a county council spokesman said.

"Previous surveys have provided important feedback."

The survey can be found at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultationandfeedback

Campaign to focus on signs of sepsis

A NATIONWIDE campaign to help parents spot the symptoms of sepsis has been launched by Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

The campaign, principally aimed at parents and carers of young children aged 0-4, will include a new film featuring mother and campaigner Melissa Mead, who lost her baby son William to sepsis in December 2014.

The UK Sepsis Trust estimates that there are more than 120,000 cases of sepsis and around 37,000 deaths each year in England. Visit nhs.uk/sepsis or www.sepsistrust.org for details.

Car driven off by sneak thief

A CAR was stolen after a thief sneaked into a home and took the keys.

The property on Cannock Road, Chase Terrace, was targeted some time between Thursday night, December 15, and the early hours of the following day.

The culprit gained access through an unlocked front door, swiped the keys to the Honda CR-V estate and drove off.

Call police on 101, quoting incident 214 of December 16.

Cash target reached for response vehicle

A £30,000 fundraising target for a life-aving response vehicle has been reached after a five-year campaign.

The Wheaton Aston Community First Responders have kitted out the two-year old Land Rover Freelander which is now up and running.

Money has come from a host of fundraisers. A pub quiz at the Hartley Arms made around £1,000. County Councillor Mark Sutton has made contributions and Wheaton Aston Care Home has regularly donated.

Sale prices at pubs

PUB-GOERS can enjoy a January Sale at two Cannock Chase pubs. Managers at The Linford Arms in High Green, Cannock, and Hedgford Lodge in Anglesey Street, Hednesford, are reducing the price on a range of drinks from Tuesday, January 3 until Wednesday, January 18 inclusive.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



This road will lead to more problems

HOW to win friends and influence people. Concerned about the growth in traffic congestion, a group of Liberal Democrat peers have come up with a brilliant idea to make the roads flow more freely. Hand over powers for traffic enforcement to local councils.

The peers want local authorities to fine motorists for minor 'moving traffic' misdemeanours, such as getting stuck in a box junction or taking a wrong turn. Yippee! What's not to like? Instead of leaving traffic enforcement to the discretion of trained police officers, whose main concern is about road safety, why not hand it over to a bunch of council jobsworths who will probably dress up like the Red Army and monitor our every move by a network of CCTV cameras that Kim Jong Un would consider a touch oppressive.

On the plus side it will do wonders to relieve the black holes which exist in council finances because they will be allowed to keep all the fines they issue. And, of course, it will be in the councils' interests to make the roads as complicated and confusing as possible, as that way they will rake in more cash.

You only have to look at the bus lane camera that Wolverhampton Council installed in Heath Town last year. Many drivers complained the angle of the road forced them to briefly cross into the bus lane while performing a legitimate U-turn. But never mind, it nabbed 10,000 motorists in 12 months, in a city with a population of less than 250,000, that is some going, and generated about £635,00 in fines. Nice one, drinks all round.

But had it reduced traffic congestion? Dream on. If the powers-that-be were serious about that, there is a simpler, more effective solution. Double the space on the road by removing the bus lanes.

□ □ □

EMILY Norton was a vivacious young hairdresser with everything to live for: a young child, a loving family, and a bright future ahead of her. Tragically, she was killed when in a collision with a lorry while cycling to work near her home in Howden, east Yorkshire.

It is thought Emily had been listening to music on headphones, and a coroner ruled that this may have been a contributory factor in her death. Rospa has told cyclists not to wear headphones, but it's not just cyclists, is it?

Everywhere you look today, there are young people aimlessly wandering around in a world of their own, oblivious to their surroundings. Accidents just waiting to happen.

Why do people find it necessary to spend their every waking moment listening to music? I like music as much as anyone, but there is a time and a place, and that is certainly not while walking around busy traffic.

People should learn from this tragedy.



Steve Bull with PM John Major and Wolves boss Graham Turner



Ray Egan, in John Bull garb at the Goodyear factory gates



Factory workers at the Bushbury Lane plant in the 1960s

Love affair's over, as Goodyear finally ends

ROB GOLLEDGE recounts the sad final chapter of Goodyear, the once-vital cog in the wheel of Wolverhampton's industry

IT WAS a low key send-off but sombre all the same. In the shadows of two towering silos on Bushbury Lane, a lone mourner said a final goodbye to a former industrial powerhouse.

For nearly 100 years Goodyear has been every bit as synonymous with Wolverhampton as the names Sunbeam, Mander, and Molineux.

At its peak 7,000 workers packed the sprawling site sandwiched between the railway line and Stafford Road.

The mechanical clatter of conveyor belts, the billowing plumes of smoke, and the hustle and bustle of production brought the city's northern fringe to life. And for generations of Wulfrunians Goodyear was a way of life.

Fathers and sons worked side by side as the world's greatest tyre and rubber manufacturer ramped up production. Its glory years were in the 1980s, making tyres for cars, trucks, tractors and Formula 1 racing teams. Covering 88 acres, the factory site stretched more than half a mile from one end to the other.

Proud

Everybody knew the name Goodyear. It was a name the workers and the city were proud of. It was a name associated with racing stars. And it was a name that graced the shirts worn by Robbie Dennison, Andy Thompson and Steve Bull. But like so many industries, the years have not been kind to the business.

Orders declined and technological advances led to job losses. For many the start of the demise was signalled when the iconic blue chimney came crashing down in 2008.

It was seen as a metaphor for what would come. Tyre production stopped some years back with the factory focusing on making



John Philpin, with the iconic chimney in 2008

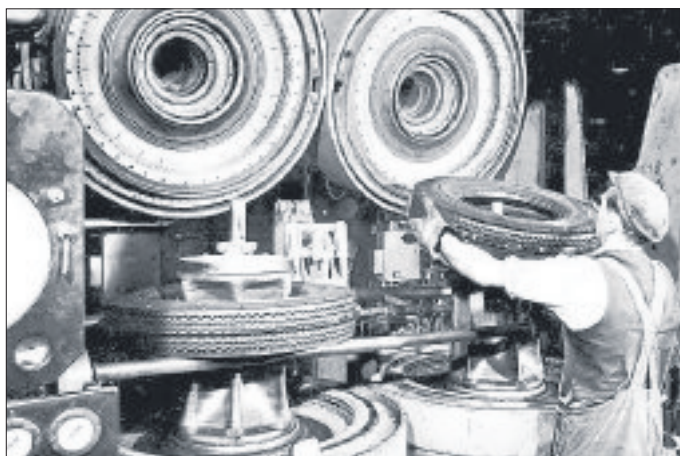
compounds for factories overseas as well as retread tyres. It remained a crucial part of the operation.

Nevertheless, the firm's American owners said the set-up was no longer financially viable, and in future the mixing process will take place at foreign tyre plants.

The high cost of the pound on international money markets was also cited when managing director Erich Fric announced the plant would close 18 months ago.

It is now something of a bitter irony that ever since the value of Sterling has fallen consistently – making the UK manufacturing sector one of the most competitive in the world.

On the eve of production coming to an end for the last time there was an eerie but reflective silence at the historic site. This day had been coming for many months. Some had predicted it years earlier. Despite that, it didn't



History in the making – a worker on the production line at the world-renowned factory

make it any less strange or any less difficult to deal with.

One of just a handful of the remaining workers occasionally passed the building's red-brick facade pushing a wheelbarrow. And the sole security guard escorted out the final lorries.

Even the sign – 'Goodyear Dunlop, United Kingdom and Ireland' – proudly displayed above the entrance looked jaded. It felt barren. Stripped of purpose. Stripped of life. You could tell it was the end of something special.

A coffin was poignantly placed in front of the gates signalling the death of another major British industry.

"Like so many others, we lose another Midlands giant," said industry campaigner Ray Egan. "It is deeply, deeply sad. To see it as it is today leaves a lump in my throat."

And what now for the workers and their families? Their Christmas was surely tainted

by an uncertainty for what 2017 holds in store. Motorists tooted their horns in solidarity as they drove past the site.

The last few workers will stay on site as the year progresses, before the gates really close for the first time.

But the beating heart of the operation is now in a state of arrest.

"People care about this, they really do," said Mr Egan. "Many a tear ought to be shed. And they will be shed."

It used to be said that when Goodyear sneezed Wolverhampton caught a cold.

It doesn't bear thinking about what the appropriate analogy would be today.

Will we see the likes of these giants again? Who really knows?

All we can be sure about is that one of the city's most successful and enduring love affairs is now, regrettably, over.



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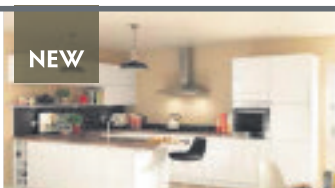
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Jail 'needs to be closed until problems sorted'

Fundraising target is met



Organiser Jean Mawson presents the cheques to John May and Carol Trigg and herself receives a 'thank you' bouquet

A FUNDRAISER has bowed out after handing over more than £1,200 at her final 'soup kitchen' event.

The lunchtime event at Chase-town Methodist Church was the fourth – and last – such fundraiser organised by Jean Mawson in aid of good causes. Previous events have raised more than £1,000 for Leukaemia Research, £900 for the Ghurkha Welfare Trust and £550 for Combat Stress.

This year, a variety of warming soups and a selection of cakes were offered in exchange for donations to Lichfield and District Talking Newspaper and Burntwood In-Sight Group. A raffle was also included.

Jean set a £1,000 target and at a meeting of the In-Sight Group on December 3, she handed over cheques of £621 to each charity.

John May MBE received the cheque on behalf of Lichfield Talking News and Carol Trigg was the representative for Burntwood In-Sight Group.

Lichfield and District Talking Newspaper provides a recorded version of local news to the visually impaired. Burntwood In-Sight is a self-help group which acts as a source of social contact for the visually impaired, offering the chance to hear speakers and engage in activities.

'OUT of control' Featherstone Prison should be shut down until issues of widespread violence and drug use have been dealt with, a parish councillor claims.

Frank Beardsmore, chairman of Featherstone and Brinsford Parish Council, said conditions had 'gone way beyond breaking point' and the jail was now unsafe for staff and inmates.

It comes after a damning report revealed an increase in attacks and higher levels of hard-drug use and violence in the 700-inmate prison. Mr Beardsmore said: "The problems at Featherstone Prison have not been addressed.

"In fact, they are getting worse, and it looks as if the prison is out of control.

"Violence has clearly got out of hand, and there are nowhere near enough staff at the prison to deal with what is going on there.

"Officers are not safe, and I can only imagine the problems they have to deal with on a daily basis.

Increase

"The only solution I can see at the moment is to close it down completely until the multitude of issues have been properly dealt with."

The report by the Independent Monitoring Board laid bare a series of issues surrounding Featherstone Prison. It highlighted an increase in the use of drug-carrying drones being flown into the prison grounds, and detailed a startling number of violent attacks over the past year.

They included 144 assaults on prisoners, 40 attacks on staff and two deaths. There were also 155 incidents of self-harm, while 60 prisoners were moved to other jails after what the report says was 'a major incident'. Concerns were also raised about a rise in vandalism in the jails, which left a significant number of cells rendered uninhabitable and other prison property damaged.

Mr Beardsmore added: "We have been promised improvement, but those promises appear to be hollow. It is so disappointing."



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8 Claimants trapped

COUNCILLOR Witton needs to understand the benefit system, as it was, became unsustainable ("Less chance of escaping poverty trap", December 15).

It simply trapped its claimants. Shrinking the cap produces a fairer system and creates and encourages employment and self-worth.

His reference to social housing, and the building of, remains unanswered. How many have Cannock Council built whilst in office?

MR A ALLPORT
Huntington

Thanks for help after fall

THROUGH your letters page, I would like to thank all the very kind people who helped me when I fell in Sheep Fair on Friday, November 25 at 10am.

I was particularly grateful to the first aid class with a teacher from the St John Ambulance centre nearby.

Thank you all very much.

JEAN WOOTTON
Rugeley

We are so grateful for everyone's support

MAY we, through the columns of your newspaper, express grateful thanks on behalf of Rugeley Rotary Club and Rugeley and District Lions Club to the generous people of Rugeley, Colton, Little Haywood, Hill Ridware and Upper Longdon for their wonderful support of our clubs' Santa Sleigh in the two weeks prior to Christmas.

This was the ninth year that the two clubs have joined forces to bring this event, and it has come as no surprise to

us that the good people of our town and surrounding villages remain extremely supportive. The magical looks on the faces of the children (aged 0 to 90!) really make the event so worthwhile.

Donations to our respective clubs' charities came in at around £6,000 and all this will be distributed through the Lions and Rotary charities.

We would like to express our grateful thanks to a number of people whose support enables the event to take place

without any serious hitches: to the staff at Waymax, Rugeley, for the generous loan of the platform truck; to 50-50 Transport for 'building and garaging' the sleigh; to the Performing Rights Society for waiving the licence fee to play music, and to our many friends and organisations who volunteer to spend their evenings with us out and about - thank you to you all.

Peter Fielding, **Rugeley Lions**
Alan Morris, **Rugeley Rotary**

Stegosaurus art has now become extinct

I NOTE that a commission for a sculpture by Midland artist Keith Harrison has been approved by Jerwood Open Forest, supported by the Arts Council, for a site on Cannock Chase. This should provide an aesthetic locally influential addition to the area ("Artist's nod to rise and fall of motor industry", December 8).

However, there is something missing. The "Stegosaurus" located on the Heritage Trail and a feature of several of the mountain bike routes is now just a location with no explanation. The original Stegosaurus sculpture which amused and entertained so many just a few years ago, constructed from appropriately shaped dead branches from the surrounding forest has disappeared, simply faded away. Passers-by now have no clue to the origin of this unusual sign.

Perhaps time for a resurrection, maybe an imaginative art project for local students. The materials are nearby, they are free to gather.

MICHAEL PRIEST
Rugeley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST	EMAIL
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES	cannock.chron@ expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Strikers suffer hardships

NUMBER 10 says the Christmas strikes show contempt to ordinary people. The strikers are ordinary people fighting to keep their heads above water. Can I remind the public that strikers do not get paid and suffer hardships to fight their corner, and a dislike for the Tories is only because their rich backers are behind the unrest. The Government should look at themselves before telling us about contempt.

ROGER ALLEN
Great Wyrley

Benefits of rent caps

FURTHER to Paul Witton's letter, rent caps would reduce the welfare bill and make being a private landlord less profitable ("Less chance of escaping poverty trap", December 15).

This in turn would lead to many of them investing money elsewhere, reducing house prices and freeing up housing stock for hardworking people who currently can't afford to get on the property ladder.

STEVE PARKER
Cannock

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STACEY OLDHAM
BHF area manager

Faulty headlamps put drivers at risk

I ALWAYS understood that no vehicle should be on the road unless the fitted equipment was in good working order, which is why the MoT was introduced.

This included road lights, and yet 70 per cent of vehicles on the road during the hours of darkness have faulty lights. These range from one or no side lights, one headlamp in the dipped position and the other headlamp projecting into the air.

This is dangerous. I often wonder whether MoT testing stations check these vehicles headlamps for alignment and adjust them accordingly.

It is no good relying on the police - they are never seen on the roads during the hours of darkness.

F DYSON
Rugeley

Austerity has miserably failed to achieve target

RICHARD Batchelor's claim that one-parent families who are having their benefits capped by £6,000 are all baby-making work-shy layabouts sponging off the state is an arbitrary offensive statement ("Tories got it right for a change", December 6). The further south of the country, the larger chunk of their benefits is taken up on rents, leaving very little for them and their children to live on.

Contrary to what Richard Batchelor states, I believe the Tories have never had it right with regard to any of the cuts. Austerity has miserably failed to achieve the Government's borrowing target, and the savage unfair cuts have created a Broken Britain.

COUNCILLOR PAUL WITTON
Cannock South



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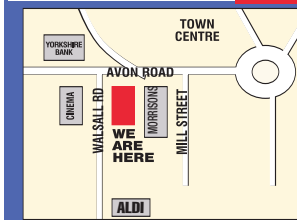
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Rethink after lights to protect deer damaged

Firm moves in at new base



Jon Churchley with, back, from left, Cannock Chase Council leader George Adamson, Councillor Mark Winnington and David Frost CBE

THE latest addition to a Cannock business park has begun operations at its new base.

HellermannTyton, a cable management manufacturer of products for fastening, fixing and protecting cables and connecting components, has relocated to Kingswood Lakeside. Its new UK distribution base incorporates state-of-the-art conference facilities, along with product demonstration areas. It is developing space for the training of staff as part of HellermannTyton's academy programme and to introduce customers to the company's extensive product range.

HellermannTyton commercial

manager Jon Churchley said: "Our new development will allow us to offer new capabilities."

County council economy leader Mark Winnington said: "Kingswood Lakeside is one of our key business investment sites and welcoming HellermannTyton is further demonstration of its success."

Land opposite HellermannTyton is being developed to house the new headquarters of Cannock-based catering equipment distributor First Choice Group. Its developer, Opus Land, has also had plans approved for two speculative developments on two more plots, covering 14 acres of land, creating up to 425 jobs.

LIGHTS in Burntwood designed to prevent deer from crossing the road and help keep drivers safe have been damaged.

A series of 32 wildlife crossing guards had been installed along a one-kilometre stretch of the town's bypass, to deter the animals from going over the road next to a new housing development.

The solar-powered crossing guards have a daylight sensor which activates them at night-time.

Once activated, the devices can be triggered by approaching vehicle headlights, causing them to emit sound and flashing lights to stop animals from going near.

However, a number of the lights have been damaged or stolen, prompting rangers to look at new ways of making the lights secure before they can be replaced.

Staffordshire County Council's countryside officers were hoping to trial the lights to see if they reduced the number of deer-related collisions.

Hoped

Councillor Gill Heath, cabinet member for the environment, said: "We are all hugely disappointed by this."

"A lot of work from our rangers and volunteers had gone into installing the lights, which we hoped would reduce the amount of deer collisions on that stretch of road."

"Last year, there were 167 deer-related collisions in Cannock Chase – not only is this fatal for the deer, but extremely traumatic and potentially fatal for the driver too. We are determined to continue this trial, as we believe it is important to reduce this number and keep drivers and deer safe."

Local county councillor Sue Woodward, who supported the scheme, said: "I'm really disappointed that this has happened, but I believe it comes from people not knowing what the lights were for. We want to make people aware that these lights aren't a toy – they are there to stop the deer crossing the road and potentially getting hit by a car."

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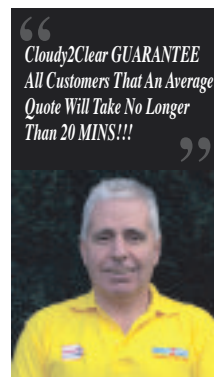
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Thinking Active course to put brake on dementia

A PILOT project has been launched which could help improve the lives of people with dementia through physical activity.

The Thinking Active scheme will combine exercise with social stimulation, which evidence suggests could help to slow the onset of the condition.

Developed by Staffordshire County Council, the project will be delivered by four groups of specially trained community groups, giving people the opportunity to take part in activities designed to stimulate the brain, do some light exercise and socialise over a cup of tea.

Thinking Active is inviting people with a diagnosis of mild to moderate dementia to join them for 12 free weekly sessions, beginning on January 9.

Activities will vary from group to group and will be tailored to individual needs. They may range from gentle strolls to chair-based exercises for the less mobile, followed by group-based social stimulation. Some groups may also be able to offer free activities for carers while they wait.

Impact

Sessions will be run by Age UK South Staffordshire at Penkridge Roller Mill; Parkwood Community Leisure at Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre; Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles at Chase Leisure Centre; and Cherry Orchard Gardens for Life (GOGs) at Burnwood Memorial Community Centre.

Councillor Alan White, cabinet member for health, care and wellbeing, said: "Dementia is one of the biggest issues facing the county council, and can have a devastating impact not only on individuals, but on their family and friends."

"Evidence shows that physical activity along with social stimulation could help slow the onset of dementia. With the Thinking Active project, we want to look at how this could improve the lives of people in Staffordshire who are living with dementia, and involve local community groups."

"We will also be working with Staffordshire University, who will be evaluating the success of the project."

For an informal chat about the scheme, call Jude Taylor on 01785 276637.

Party celebrates 10 years



Staff invited customers and passers-by to pop in and celebrate the milestone

RUGELEY residents were treated to a party as an opticians celebrated 10 years in the town centre.

Staff from Specsavers in Upper Brook Street invited customers and passers-by to pop in for a slice of cake to mark the milestone, with a face painter and balloon modeller for children, as well as goody bags and party food for everyone.

"Ten years is quite a milestone to reach, so we took the opportunity to mark the occasion with many of our loyal customers," store director Minal Naik said. "We've seen a lot of change over the years."

"We had a fantastic weekend and

were delighted to welcome customers of all ages into store for a delicious slice of cake. A big thank you to everyone who helped us to celebrate our birthday."

Specsavers opened in Rugeley with a team of six, including optical assistant Sue Reed, who said: "It's been a pleasure to work at Specsavers Rugeley for the last decade."

"We have a brilliant team and still see customers who have been with us since the beginning. Here's to the next ten years!"

The team has since grown to 10 members of staff, who have 45 years of service between them.

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Cadets mark 75th anniversary by planting trees at Arboretum



The cadets planting at the National Memorial Arboretum



Madeline Roberts, Sam Kehoe, Clara Jackson, Dominic Pilkington



The 75 trees mark 75 years of the Air Training Corp

STAFFORDSHIRE'S Wing Air Cadets have planted 75 beech trees at the National Memorial Arboretum in celebration of the Air Training Corp's milestone anniversary.

Cadets from across Staffordshire and the Black Country planted the trees donated by the Woodland Trust.

An avenue was created next to the Royal Air Force Association memorial with help from the 75 cadets.

They also unveiled a plaque marking the occasion, so that Arboretum visitors would understand the signif-

icance of the row of beech trees for years to come.

All 31 squadrons of the Wing were represented, with cadets travelling from the likes of West Bromwich and Stafford. Cadet Hana Stamp of 1444 (Brownhills) Squadron was one of those present at the event and said: "It was great to be involved in such an important event and be part of our 75th anniversary."

"The team from the Arboretum gave us a short lesson on how to plant the trees so they grow properly, and then

we jumped straight into the digging. We worked in pairs but all 75 of us got a tree to call our own. I made a note of which one is mine so I can visit again and see how it's growing."

Wing Commander Sharrard-Williams, officer commanding of Staffordshire Wing Air Cadets, said: "I'm really grateful to both the National Memorial Arboretum and also the Woodland Trust for making the event possible, and ensuring we have a lasting marker of our 75th anniversary in the grounds of the Arboretum."

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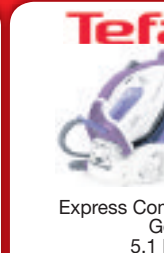
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Sing2gether – a group of singers from two choirs which rehearse separately and then come together for recordings and shows

A SONG recorded by a West Midlands choir is now on sale to raise money for St Giles Hospice.

This Time Of Year, performed by Sing2gether, is available to download from Amazon Music, Google Play or iTunes.

The song was composed by Sing2gether musician Stuart Crossen and vocal coach Mike Brereton, who is also a singer, songwriter and performer.

Sing2gether is a group of about

60 singers from two choirs, which rehearse separately in Pelsall and Streetly and then come together for recordings and concerts.

Mr Brereton said: "We do cover versions the majority of the time, but Stuart and I came up with the idea to create an original song for the choir to sing."

"The message of the song is that we're here to support each other – that was really important to us. Many

people join community choirs having experienced loss of loved ones as it gives them the opportunity to make new friends. A lot of our members had lost people and we wanted to get that across in the song."

Sing2gether raises money for local charities each year and decided that St Giles Hospice, which provides care for local people living with cancer and other serious illnesses, should receive the proceeds from the single.

Brainwashing claim over £280k schools project

THE company behind HS2 has been accused of 'brainwashing' pupils after it signed a £280,000 contract to 'educate' children in primary schools about the benefits of the £55.7 billion project.

The deal has been criticised by campaigners who have dubbed it as state-sponsored 'propaganda' promoting the scheme.

Key Stage 2 pupils will be encouraged to make a 'zoom train' from cardboard and straws, powered by a balloon. It follows a programme in secondary schools along the route of HS2 which encouraged pupils to look at possible routes for 'zoom rail' from London to Birmingham.

While the promotional message contains the disclaimer 'the materials in this pack are for educational purposes only and are not intended to be a representation of any particular project', campaigners say it is clear it represents HS2, with references to HS2 sources and the entirety of the documents produced in HS2 Ltd's format,



HS2 – 'learning and skills opportunities'

with the 'zoom train' containing HS2's logo and 'engine from growth' slogan.

The tender document for the primary school engagement programme, which was awarded at a cost of £280,000, states: "The education programme is an integral element of HS2

Ltd's broader approach to creating skills and employment opportunities."

But the manager of the Stop HS2 campaign, Joe Rukin, said: "Just when we thought HS2 Ltd couldn't sink any lower, we find they are spending over a quarter of a million on targeting primary school children along the route of HS2 for brainwashing."

"The concept of state-sponsored propaganda, which is tailored so children in communities impacted by HS2 must come to the conclusion HS2 is a brilliant idea, is truly Orwellian."

A spokesperson for HS2 said: "HS2's goal is to provide Britain with a legacy of skills and experience that will benefit the whole industry."

"We are committed to ensuring that young people receive access to learning and skills opportunities which will enable them to play a role in the construction, development and ongoing operation of HS2 and other transport and infrastructure projects."

"We're 17 years away from introducing high speed rail between the Midlands and the north of England, so it's right that we plan ahead."

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WI members get crafty for meeting

The Ridwares WI

THE November meeting was devoted to an assortment of crafts. Members were invited to dabble in making a Christmas flower arrangement, checking out how to cane a chair, knitting/crochet and a workshop with Kath Sargeant on making an unusual bauble.

The WI tinsel and trimmings evening was held on December 1 when pantomime characters from Lichfield's Garrick Theatre came along to switch on the lights.

Mulled wine, mince pies, tea and coffee were served whilst everyone was entertained by Birchwood Ladies' Choir and Abbie and Ellie, sisters who have now raised £1,470 for Children In Need. There were more than 50 raffle prizes to be won, and crafts and cakes to be bought.

Following The Ridwares WI's fundraising efforts in 2016, First Responders and Lichfield Talking Newspaper were each presented with a cheque for £500.

Members of the WI attended the County Markets Day and were entertained by Neil Hurst, singer/actor/comedian during the morning session and singer/actress Toyah Willcox during the afternoon session.

President Karen Wakefield again entered The Huxley Cup National Flower Arranging Competition, having won last year, and this time attained second place.

At the next meeting on Tuesday, January 17, Judy Hubble will give a talk on Patrick Lichfield.

Talk brings back sweet memories

Zeppelin outrage relived by speaker

PRESIDENT Helen Hallchurch welcomed speaker Ian Bott who summarised his book *The Midland Zeppelin Outrage* which catalogued the 71 fatalities, by Ian's calculations, in the Black Country on one particular moonless night in 1916.

These deaths were only a small percentage of the 17 million people who had lost their lives during the First World War, but Ian bought their stories back to life through his pictures.

Ian explained the Zeppelins were originally built to ferry passengers to the Alps, but were utilised by the Navy as long-range bombers during the war.

On the foggy night January 31, 1916 the Zeppelins were heading for Liverpool. But with no moon or stars to guide

them, they mistook the canals of the Black Country for the docks; deploying missiles as they went causing chaos and destruction with 400 bombs hitting targets in Walsall, Dudley Castle, Kidderminster and up to Derby; then eventually, following the railway lines up to Liverpool.

Ian told of some of the individuals who had lost their lives including a courting couple strolling along the towpath and a large family altogether for their evening meal, creating a personal touch to his story.

Diana Jones gave the vote of thanks and told of her mother's recollections of these great beasts of the sky that would emit a ghoulis humming noise.

SI Cannock & District

CANNOCK Soroptimists were entertained by Emma Baran-Scott who ran the sweet shop at the Back-to-Back houses in Hurst Street, Birmingham for five years.

The title of her presentation was 'Sweet Heritage' and she told the group all about the history of sweet making in Birmingham and the Black Country, from its beginnings in the Victorian era through to the present day.

Emma bought along some sweets for the members to try with rhubarb and custard being a great success while old fashioned acid drops were something of an acquired taste.

She also introduced almost everyone to troach drops which were made in Birmingham and known by everyone in the city but almost unknown everywhere else. Only one member who'd grown up in Birmingham remembered these anised flavoured boiled sweets, but everyone enjoyed tasting them.

Lillian Hyde thanked Emma for a most entertaining and well researched talk.

Christmas wreath demonstration

AN enjoyable Harvest supper of jacket potatoes served with a variety of fillings was enjoyed at the October meeting followed by a food and drink quiz organised by Di Beasley.

A craft fair was held in October at Pelsall Community Centre organised by the Federation Committee and several Cannock TG members made items for the guild table.

Pauline Haywood laid poppy tributes at the Tulip Tree in the Rose Garden at Can-

Cannock TG

nock Park, which was planted in January 2015 by the Cannock Guild to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

At the November meeting, an entertaining Christmas wreath demonstration was given by Vicky Askew who trained at Rodbaston. The vote of thanks given by chairman Gill Loftus.

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Rugeley

Rugeley Rose Theatre
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5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Rachel: 07807 785600

Cannock

The Langford
Community Centre
Longford Medical Practice,
Longford Road, Cannock
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Gill: 07958 000554

TUESDAY

Cannock

Avon Business & Leisure Centre,
Jack Holsten Suite,
Avon Road, Cannock
(next to Asda)
9am & 11am

Morning Group

Ring Rose: 07837088159

Brereton

Cedar Tree Hotel, 110 Main Road,
Brereton, Rugeley
9.30am & 11.30am
Ring Emma: 07969 865624

Great Wyrley

Senior Citizens Centre,
Broadmeadow Lane,
Great Wyrley
9.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Kierston: 07824665600

Huntington

Littleton Green Community School,
Stafford Road, Huntington
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Rose: 07837 088159

Brereton

Cedar Tree Hotel,
110 Main Road,
Brereton, Rugeley
3.30pm & 5.30pm &
7.30pm
Ring Emma: 07969 865624

Penkridge

Peace Memorial Hall,
Pinfold Lane, Penkridge
7.30pm
Ring Claire: 07540
230320

Hednesford

St Josephs Primary
School
Hilltop, Hednesford
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Lindsey: 07989
962061

WEDNESDAY

Bridgtown

Bethel Methodist Church
Union Street,
Bridgtown, Cannock 5.30pm
Ring Gill: 07958 000554

Hednesford

Pye Green Community Centre
Bradbury Lane, Pye Green
9.00am & 11.00am

Morning Groups

Ring Rose: 07837 088159

Heath Hayes

Welcome Club,
Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Kerrie: 07708 477557

Chadsmoor

Bethany Baptist Church,
Cannock Road, Chadsmoor
7.30pm
Ring Lesley-Anne:
07966 456412

THURSDAY

Cannock

Avon Business & Leisure Centre
The Chase Suite Avon Road,
Cannock (next to Asda)
6.30pm

Ring Jan: 07939 001558

Cheslyn Hay

Cheslyn Hay Community
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Cheslyn Hay
9.30am *Morning Group*
also at 5.30pm & 7.30pm
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Morning Groups

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Chasetown

Chasetown Methodist Church,
Lawnswood Avenue,
Chasetown
9.30am & 7.30pm
Ring Rachel: 07889 882086

FRIDAY

Hednesford

Aquarius Ballroom
Victoria Street, Hednesford
9.30am *Morning Group*
Ring Gill: 07958 000554

SATURDAY

Pye Green

Pye Green Community Centre
Bradbury Lane, Pye Green
11.30am *Morning Group*
Ring Fina: 07530 165049

Rugeley

Mansfield House,
Market Street, Rugeley
10am *Morning Group*
Ring Nathalie: 07939 517909

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Team give up their time for good deeds



Niran Finch, aged 20, serves up a treat at St Joseph's Church in Rugeley *Picture: Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service*

YOUNG people have been helping members of the community as part of the Prince's Trust's Team Challenge. Seventeen participants, led by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, dedicated their time to doing good deeds.

They visited Busy Minds, a weekly social session for older people in Codsall, where they produced and ran a quiz, served tea and cakes and had a chat with members of the group. The group the volunteered at the soup kitchen at St Joseph's Church in Rugeley where they served a meal to older and socially isolated people. They also held a tombola and presented prizes to the winners.

Participants also helped out at The House of Bread in Rising Brook Methodist Church, handing out soup and bread they had baked to the homeless and disadvantaged.

Team leader Joyce Underwood said: "The young people gave 100 per cent to this challenge and, judging by the reaction of those who benefitted, their hard work really paid off. The participants also got a lot out of the events."

The service is recruiting for its next Team Challenge programme, which starts on January 30.

For more information call 01785 898996 or email Joyce. Underwood@staffordshirefire.gov.uk

Road chaos as 'drivers dodge car park fees'

A VILLAGE has become gridlocked with cars as commuters dodge parking charges at a nearby town, it has been claimed.

Angry residents in Penkridge say their village centre is being taken over by drivers from Stafford who are driving to the village to park for free, before catching the train from its unmanned station.

Commuters are leaving their vehicles in residential streets, outside businesses and even on the Methodist Church car park to avoid the £12-a-day charge at Stafford. One business has resorted to bringing in fines to stop train passengers from using their car park.

One resident, who catches the train every morning from Penkridge to Birmingham but did not want to be named, said: "Since Stafford station has increased prices to park, more people are travelling to Penkridge to park as it's free."

"Penkridge does not have enough parking for all the people now using the station."

"I have no issue with people driving to Penkridge station - they just need to provide more parking and more facilities at Penkridge."

Councillor Isabel Ford

By Jack Avery

said the parking problems were putting people off shopping in the village.

She said: "It is not so much the traffic it creates, it is the fact the car parks are overloaded, and not by Penkridge people."

Councillor Ford, who represents Penkridge on South Staffordshire Council, has raised the issue before with the county council and tried to have a system put in place where Penkridge drivers were given stickers to identify them and drivers from outside the village would have to pay.

However, this idea was rejected.

Andrea Gubbins, manager of the Hatherton Hotel opposite the station, said they would shortly be moving over to Parking Eye to help with enforcement.



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FOCUS ON HEDNESFORD

**Park volunteers thanked
for all their hard work**

Some of the volunteers - 'it's only through everyone working together that so much is achieved'

VOLUNTEERS have been thanked for their 'unprecedented' work in organising events in Hednesford Park and keeping it clean and tidy.

Council bosses say the successful Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project has highlighted the true value of volunteering at the park.

In 2012, Cannock Chase Council were successful in a HLF bid for £2.2 million.

Together with funding from the council, Staffordshire Environmental Fund and St Modwen, this enabled developments to be achieved at the

park and war memorial. The funding application process asked for an estimate of volunteer hours, and at the time, this was put at £141,000 worth of hours, based on the HLF recommended hourly rates.

However, this amount was exhausted within the first 18 months of the project, and it is estimated that by the time the project is finished in 2017 the volunteering hours will total over £400,000.

Councillor Christine Mitchell, portfolio leader for culture and sport, said: "The majority of events and activities held in the park would not be possible without the committed team of volunteers and it's only through every-

one working together that so much is achieved. The amount of work that has taken place by volunteers at Hednesford Park is unprecedented."

The Friends of Hednesford Park are heavily involved in the volunteering activities at the park, engaging schools and many other community groups.

A 'significant' contribution is made by Hednesford Army Cadets and Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets. Other young people volunteer to gain valuable work experience through Rodbaston Horticultural College or through schemes such as The Prince's Trust.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Lynn Evans by emailing lynnevans@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

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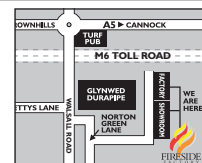
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fireside
FACTORY

Workers raise £150k in a year

KIND-HEARTED employees at Cannock-based Briggs Equipment have helped to raise close to £150,000 in 12 months for a number of worthy causes.

The asset management and engineering services specialist has a dedicated employee-led fundraising programme.

Since January, employees have been staging fun activities, including raffles, cake sales, marathons, bike rides and car washes, in support of Teenage Cancer Trust.

A monthly Jeans Day, which sees Briggs

employees go to work in their jeans in return for a donation, made a significant contribution towards the overall total of £145,000. In 2016, beneficiaries included Alzheimer's Society, Parkinson's UK and St. Giles Hospice, all of them nominated by Briggs employees.

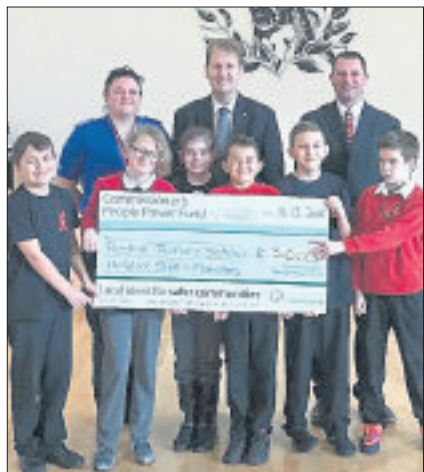
Janet Noble, chair of the Briggs charity team, said: "Our people are willing to devote a huge amount of time and energy to helping charities and local community projects that are close to their hearts."

Town hospital most likely to lose A&E unit

COUNTY Hospital is the 'obvious' choice to lose its A&E among the three major hospitals in the county, campaigners have warned. The Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), published this month, revealed health bosses want to downgrade one emergency department at the Stafford site to an urgent care centre.

The STP also proposes to strip Cannock Chase Hospital of its Minor Injuries Unit. The NHS in Staffordshire faces a £542 million black hole in five years' time.

Sporting chance for pupils with £3,000



PCSO Laura Mancicius, Matthew Ellis, and teacher Paul Moberley with Year 6 pupils at Redhill Primary School, Chads Moor. REDHILL Primary School in Chads Moor is delighted to have been awarded the sum of £3,000 from Staffordshire Police Commissioner's People Power Fund.

The boost will enable pupils aged 5 to 11 the opportunity to take part in a range of activities during the summer school holidays by means of a sports camp provided by staff from Progressive Sports.

The award came following a successful bid to Police Commissioner Matthew Ellis by the school's former sport and community coordinator Paul Moberley and endorsed by PCSO Laura Mancicius who has been involved in numerous initiatives with the school over the last year including weekly visits to teach the older pupils about citizenship.

PCSO Mancicius said: "During the school holidays we experience a higher volume of anti-social behaviour in Cannock including the area which includes Redhill Primary. One of the causes of this is that the children do not have anything to occupy themselves."

Tips ready for rubbish

STAFFORDSHIRE household waste recycling centres are ready to take the extra strain as a result of the holiday period.

Normal service will continue for all 14 waste centres apart from January 1. All sites will be open today (Thursday) and tomorrow, and until 3pm on Saturday.

For more information, visit <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/rubbishwasteandrecycling/Bank-Holidays/Christmas-and-New-Year-opening-times-2016-17-156kb.pdf>

Dog breeders told to be wary of visits

POLICE are warning dog breeders to be extra cautious following incidents in which offenders have stolen or attempted to steal puppies. In less than a month, there were two reports from breeders who have experienced thefts of their pedigree puppies.

A breeder in the Burton area had nine French Bulldogs stolen after they had been advertised for sale on websites. An offender arranged to call at the house posing as a legitimate buyer and left without purchasing a dog.

Less than two hours later, some of the puppies were stolen, and the breeder received a demand for money for the safe return of the dogs. In the early hours of the next morning, more puppies were stolen, taking the total to nine. Chief Insp Ricky Fields said: "I would urge people who have puppies for sale to be cautious about letting prospective buyers into their homes. Some pedigree puppies can be worth thousands of pounds."

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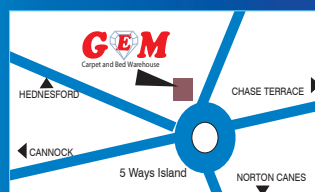
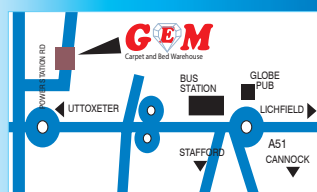
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195/65/15	£35.00	£129.00	£119.00
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Park balloon race winners

THE winners of the virtual balloon race that took place as part of the Hednesford Park consultation have been announced.

Cannock Chase Council launched a consultation exercise to find out what people thought of the improvements made to the park and the War Memorial, and each respondent had the chance to enter the race.

The winners were: Isobelle Donnelly - BMX stunt bike donated by Halfords; Connor Bowley - skateboard donated by Canvas Spaces; Charlie Evans - stunt scooter do-

nated by Fish Face Cycles; Emma Evans - tennis equipment donated by Cheslyn Hay Tennis Club; Michelle Curtis - food vouchers donated by The Parlour;

Laura Folkard - roller blades and padding donated by Fish Face Cycles; Cheryl Smith - Forest School education back pack donated by Go Outdoors;

Stacey Reeves - orienteering set donated by Go Outdoors; Oliver Donnelly - running shoes and clothing from Decathlon; Sarah Cope - sports equipment from Decathlon.

Fire union hits out at plans to merge services

THE Fire Brigades Union has criticised controversial plans to merge Staffordshire's police and fire services as they moved a step towards closure. It comes on the back of a report titled 'Is there a case for full integration?' which was released last week.

It stated that the move would save £5.4 million a year and could feasibly happen as early as April. But Rich Williams, FBU chairman for Staffordshire, has opposed the extra influence Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis would have over the fire service. He also claimed trust in firefighters would be undermined.

Apprentices reach finals of awards



Amanda Milling with apprentices Alex Beech and Jessica Ellis

TWO employees based at Veolia's regional office in Cannock were finalists in the company's National Apprentice of the Year awards at the House of Commons.

Alex Beech and Jessica Ellis are among more than 300 apprentices at the resource management company. Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling, who joined Alex and Jessica at the awards ceremony, praised them on their success.

"I would like to congratulate both Jessica and Alex on their awards," Ms Milling said.

"It is fantastic that two apprentices from Veolia's office in Cannock were amongst the handful of national finalists.

"I was hugely impressed by both Jessica and Alex, who showed real passion and energy for their job, and I hope that they continue to succeed with their apprenticeships. It is great that Veolia have taken on so many apprentices and can see the value and benefit they bring to their business."

Estelle Brachlianoff, senior executive vice-president of Veolia UK & Ireland, said: "I believe apprenticeships hold the key to success of industry across the UK. We want to help provide the training needed to close the skills gap and deliver the homegrown talent that our industry demands."

Mr Williams said: "There is virtually no support for PCCs and certainly none to enable them to take over the fire and rescue service, such a move risks undermining public confidence in the accountability and governance of our emergency services."

"PCCs pose an intrinsic threat to the independence and effectiveness of the fire and rescue service. Although the emergency services work together effectively at many incidents, there is no operational reason for police and fire services to merge."

Communities

He added: "Police officers and firefighters perform very different roles - police officers have the power of arrest whereas firefighters do not."

"This distinction is an important aspect of firefighters' relations with local communities. The worry for firefighters is that mergers will undermine the public's trust in the impartiality of the fire service, which they rely upon to gain access to people's homes for vital fire prevention and emergency rescue work."

But Mr Ellis said: "The recommended changes retain the identities and specialisms of each of the two services. They reduce heavy management structures to allow extra investment in the frontline operations."

Rock on at club

PENKRIDGE rock fans are invited to try out the Staffordshire Rock and Blues Club every month at the Monckton recreation centre, Pinfold Lane. Tickets are available at the centre or at Green Dog Vaping, based on Market Street.

Chance to be a medic

APPLICATIONS have reopened for student paramedic vacancies at West Midlands Ambulance Service.

And bosses are reminding applicants that they must have, or applied for, a C1 driving licence and certificates for a minimum of five GCSEs. There are 300 places on offer.

Recruitment manager Louise Harris said: "This is an exciting opportunity."

The closing date is Sunday, January 8. For further information, email recruitment@wmas.nhs.uk

Schemes in pipeline for making changes

PLANNING applications received by Lichfield District Council include: 5 Old Barnhouse Mews, Hill Top, Rugeley - works to listed building to enable the replacement of all external windows and doors.

Old Station House, Station Road, Hammerwich - two-storey extension to rear to form lounge and breakfast room at ground-floor level and form one new bedroom and extend existing bedroom at first-floor level; single-storey extension to front to form new garage.

Land adjacent Milestone Way and rear of 29-39 Cannock Road (Olaf Johnson site), Burntwood - retail development comprising a total of 7,259sqm of retail floorspace comprising three pod units (499 sqm in total) for use within Classes A1, A2, A3 & A5 and up to nine units (6,461 sqm) for use within Class A1 retail together with a drive-thru restaurant (Use Classes A3 & A5) (299 sqm) together with associated access, car parking, servicing and associated works.



Carl Cope collapses outside the A&E at Walsall Manor

Medic may lose his job for failing to intervene

A PARAMEDIC who failed to act as a man lay dying outside Walsall Manor Hospital could face being struck off nearly five years after it happened.

Matthew Geary, from Great Wyrley, was spared jail and given an eight month suspended prison sentence for his part in the incident on June 23, 2012 which led to the death of Carl Cope.

He was then given a reprimand by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) in January this year, after a disciplinary panel ruled he could continue working, but only under a two-year supervision. But now that decision has been contested and Mr Geary will be hauled back before the same panel again on January 7 for a two day hearing – once again with his job on the line.

A HCPC spokeswoman said: "The hearing decision for the case of Geary, which took place in January 2016, was appealed by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) to the high court. The case has been remitted back to the same panel for reconsideration"



Matthew Geary



A CCTV image of the incident



The patient, Carl Cope

Motionless

Mr Geary, now 38, had brought Mr Cope, from Parker Street, Bloxwich, to the Manor the day he died but watched from a window as he collapsed from a heart attack and appealed for help.

CCTV also showed the paramedic standing motionless with his hands in his pockets as he looked down on the stricken man.

Mr Geary was originally accused of manslaughter but instead a guilty plea of failing to discharge his duty was accepted at Wolverhampton Crown Court in February last year.

His punishment also included 240 hours of unpaid work as well as the suspended sentence.

When the investigation was launched the paramedic resigned from West Midlands Ambulance Service, where he had served for eight years, but continued to work in the profession elsewhere.

In January the HCPC panel declared Mr Geary's fitness to practice had been impaired but ruled against striking him off.

Panel chairman Ian Hughes said: "The person who appears before the panel is a changed man.

"The registrant has fully accepted he had not taken the appropriate level of assessment and should not have left the patient on his own. The panel has accepted the registrant's remorse and regret of what happened."

JCB workers accept deal

SHOP FLOOR workers at JCB factories in Staffordshire have voted to accept a 2.2 per cent pay rise for 2017 as part of a newly agreed three-year wage deal. The agreement covers those working at the cab factory at Rugeley as well as hundreds more at Rugeley, Uttoxeter, Cheadle and at Wrexham and Foston in Derbyshire. The pay deal was reached following a vote by GMB members and will see about 3,200 shop floor employees receive the increase from January 1. The rise is linked to November's Retail Price Index (RPI), which was announced earlier this month.



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Saucy jokes at 'Carry on panto'

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

Dick Whittington Birmingham Hippodrome
BRUM'S big panto is a laughter riot, a colourful chaotic festive avalanche of raucous slapstick and saucy humour... but maybe too saucy.

As always at the Hippodrome, the costumes are stunning and the special effects, including a giant rat, flying reindeer sleigh and 3D underwater adventure, are second to none.

But the double and single entendres come thick and fast. So much so that mum and dad may be facing a few awkward questions from the youngest panto-goers. It feels like Carry On Panto.

It all starts with the panto hero's name. John Barrowman as tricky Dicky can't let those all-too-easy gags remain unsaid.

Super-showman Barrowman is a powerful singer and a decent hooper, and in no doubt of his own star quality. The confident panto star dominates every scene he is in.

He certainly has a rapport with tiny Janette Krankie, as Wee Jimmy, after appearing with panto veterans The Krankies at several Glasgow pantos.

In one scene he ends up in bed with Wee Jimmy (which is wrong on so many levels) and Barrowman goes on to manhandle the 68-year-old comedienne in a frenetic 12 Days of Christmas. I think I now know how it feels to cringe and laugh at the same time.

Those who delighted in The Krankies' panto appearances at Wolverhampton Grand will cheer the return of Wee Jimmy's Picking On Me song



Steve McFadden as King Rat and John Barrowman as Dick Whittington. Picture: Paul Coltas

and the transformation into Ozzy Osbourne and 'MacDonna', pointy bra and all, singing about living 'in a miniature world'.

Andrew Ryan as Sarah The Cook is as much drag queen as panto dame but looks stunning in mind-blowing costumes and does have some of the best lines.

Traditional

The traditional female roles, played by TV show winners turned West End stars Jodie Prenger (as Fairy Bow Bells) and Danielle Hope (as Alice), were largely kept out of the funny business and seemed merely present to look pretty and sing sweetly.

The heart of the panto – and this is a show lacking some heart – was Matt

Slack as Idle Jack, who is becoming a regular at the Hippodrome panto and is already booked to play Buttons in Cinderella next year.

Slack is a gifted physical comedian and impressionist. He did a great Michael McIntyre and a 'Grant Mitchell' in front of his TV brother, as East-End-er Steve McFadden plays King Rat with a whiplash tail and lots of villainous enthusiasm.

Slack also gets the balance of friendliness, silliness and making fun just right when shepherding the children on stage for the sing-along scene.

Dick Whittington continues at the Hippodrome until January 29.

It is anarchic and frequently hilarious but does deserve a PG certificate.



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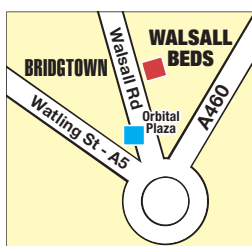
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An aerial view of Ludlow, with Dinham Bridge to the right of the castle



The opening stretch curves past Bromfield church



Titterstone Clee, the highest point in Shropshire, can be viewed en route

Castle a star of great walk

BROMFIELD TO LUDLOW
This easy walk through mixed farmland with stunning views of Ludlow Castle, Titterstone Clee and the River Teme should take around 90 minutes.

You start this walk at the Bromfield bus stop. If you arrive from the Craven Arms direction then you will need to use the underpass to cross the A49 which is just to the left beyond the bus shelter. If you arrive from the Ludlow direction then walk ahead on the pavement over the bridge spanning the River Onny towards the road turning for Knighton.

1 Turn left beforehand (the underpass emerges from the left) and follow the path as it curves left to a quiet lane which passes Bromfield Church.

2 The lane as it crosses the River Teme in a delightful setting. Here you have a view of one of the many old mills located on the river.

Follow the Shropshire Way signage as the road rises through the estate. Keep ahead and ignore turns to the left or right.

After about one mile it dips down through trees and rises again to pass by a lodge through a bridge gate.

3 As you catch sight of the farm at Priors Halton look for the Shropshire Way fingerpost signing you left through a gateway to enter a field.

Head slightly right across it and through a five-barred gate. You can see the fine tower of St Peter's Church in Ludlow ahead of you and superb views

of Titterstone Clee to your left.

Head in a similar direction in the next field to the top right-hand corner and cross a stile and footbridge into the next field.

4 Climb up to cross a stile ahead then walk to the hedge opposite.

Go right and follow the hedge now with views of Ludlow Castle before you. Cross a stile and keep ahead but just to the right of the trees. Go over another stile in a dip in the field corner.

Go over the footbridge and stile to climb up the bank and now follow the field hedge, keeping the castle slightly to your left, to a gate which leads onto a lane.

5 Go left here – the Cliffe Hotel is to your right and caravan park ahead. Go left again to the Dinham Bridge which is also crossed.

Timetables

The Millennium Green is to your left. Rise up The Dinham into the Market Square in Ludlow.

If you're travelling to this walk's starting point by bus, there are several ways to find the starting point.

The 435 Shrewsbury to Ludlow service runs Monday to Saturday, and key bus stops include Shrewsbury bus station, Church Stretton – Beaumont Road, Craven Arms – opposite Tuffins supermarket, Ludlow – off Market Square.

You can also hop on the 738 Ludlow to Knighton service calling in Bucknell and Leinwardine.

For bus timetables and information visit www.travelshropshire.co.uk or contact Traveline 0871 200 22 33. The Ludlow Food Centre is a short walk from the Bromfield bus stop.

This Bromfield to Ludlow walk is one of a number of car-free routes on and around the Shropshire Way which are featured on a dedicated website, produced by Shropshire Council, and reproduced in the Shropshire Star with their permission.

Walk the Shropshire Way you'll see why the Shropshire Hills are designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The varied geology of this relatively small area (the AONB covers nearly a quarter of Shropshire) has created a diverse and contrasting landscape which is all the more obvious when following the Shropshire Way – the craggy ridge of the Stiperstones, the moorland plateau of the Long Mynd, the quarried Clee Hills and the rolling countryside of the Clun Forest all have their own character.

Designation

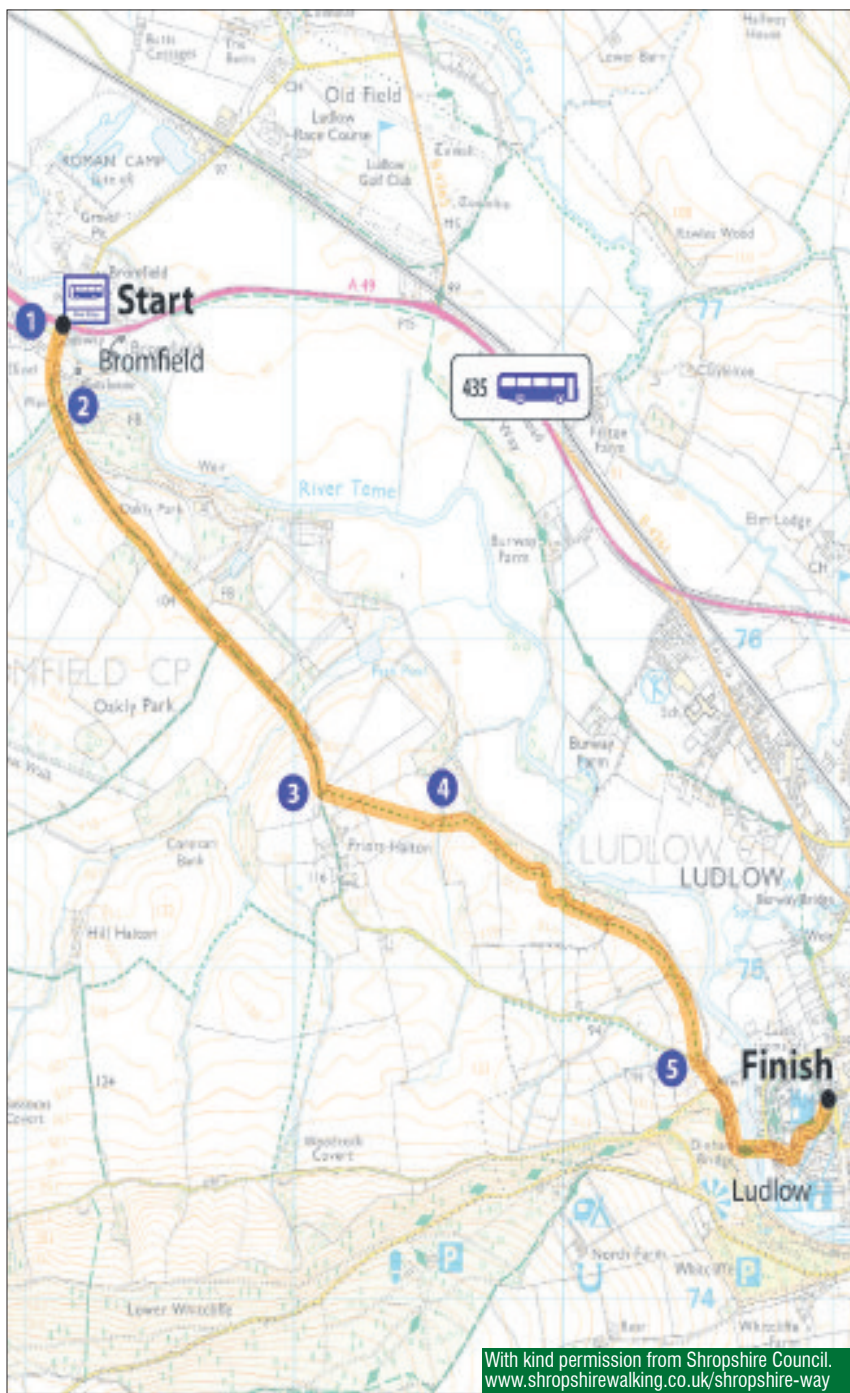
The AONB is a national designation which recognises the Shropshire Hills as one of Britain's finest landscapes and aims to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape.

The walks featured on the website have been compiled on the back of the knowledge of real experts – local walkers.

The individuals and groups, historians, lovers of flora and fauna, the volunteers who look after the stiles, bridges and paths have all have contributed.

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See www.barclaycardarena.co.uk

NYE SPECIALS

New Year's Eve 2017 Classic Rock Party performed by Dizzy Lizzy

Tomorrow, £12 - £14
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Uprawr New Year's Eve
Tomorrow, £10 - £12.50
Total Uprawr, The Asylum Venue, Birmingham, B19 3LS.
Call 0121 233 1109

New Year's Eve Party!
Tomorrow - Sun, Birmingham Moseley Rugby Club, Billesley Common, B13 0PT. Call 0121 443 3631

The High Society Club – NYE
Mechu, Birmingham, B3 1JJ.
Call 01212 121661

New Years Eve with The Subterraneans
Tomorrow, £35 - £100
The Jam House, Birmingham, B3 1QU. Call 0121 200 3030

The Oscars New Years Eve Party
The Chameleon Restaurant & Bar, Birmingham, B1 1BD.
Call 0121 643 2233

New Year's Eve Party
Tomorrow - Sun, Revolution Bar, Birmingham, B15 1AY. Call 01244 345 362

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Cinderella
Today - Thu, £11.50 - £23
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 6FT.
Call 01743 281281

Treasure Island
Tonight - tomorrow, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Dick Whittington
Tonight - Thu, Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Aladdin
Tonight - Thu, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 429212

Moscow State Circus
Tonight - tomorrow, Star City, Birmingham, B7 5SA.
Call 0121 270 4455

Rhythm of the Dance
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Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Birmingham Royal Ballet – Class on Stage
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Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
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COMEDY

Roy Chubby Brown
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ARTS & CULTURE

Cocktail Masterclass
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New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
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60+ Strength & Balance Class
Today, Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Fortnightly Knitting and Crochet Group
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Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2RR.
Call 01782 233222

Marvel Universe LIVE!
Today, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Royal Birmingham Society of Artists – Granary Art Gallery
Tomorrow, Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal, TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

The Roaring 20s Party
Tomorrow - Sun, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 200 2000

Roger Hiorns
Today - Thu, Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Dr D's Science Club
Tomorrow, Erasmus Darwin House, Lichfield, WS13 7AD.
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Buried Treasures
Today - Sun, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

The Pastoral and the Sublime
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Collecting Birmingham: Stories that should be shared
Today - tomorrow, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, B18 6HA.
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Plan big NYE out



DJ Tommy Vercetti will be at Lab11 in Birmingham

Despite the nostalgia for what's already been this year on the club scene, there's still the big one to come – New Year, global excuse to party!

What better way to see out the old and welcome in the new than surrounded by a tonne of like-minded people, embracing some gorgeous music and starting 2017 the way you mean to finish it. There's loads of local brands going all out to celebrate and plenty of collaboration between them to bring even better parties.

It's tough to choose where to start with, there being so much choice, but one has got to be The Acid Experiment. With just over a year of experience under their belts, these guys have taken Birmingham by storm with their ethos of classic and acid house combined with 21st century visuals and production clearly a winning recipe.

For NYE they've been given none other than Lab11 to unleash a party of epic proportions and they don't mean to disappoint! Head honcho Neiyar said: "We got offered the venue and after the success of the year we thought it would be really rude not too. Our party aims to bring the original rave era back to modern day Digbeth. Young and old, experienced and un-experienced ravers, we all come together through the power of music."

"With an eclectic set of Birmingham's renowned and respected resident DJ's (and one Madchester boy) we achieve a vibe and a gate to the early days of acid house and old school."

DJs on the night include Tommy Vercetti, Tomola, Billy Bayliss, Anton Stranger, Dave Fogg and more.

Throwing

Elsewhere, in Wolverhampton, **Starworks Warehouse** is throwing a three-room to see the year out in style. Room one is a mashup of house and bass with Tom Zanetti and Ko Kane, DJ SKT, Wayne Fox and more leading the proceedings for Sleepin Is Cheatin. Room 2 is tech and techno all night long courtesy of Technicolor, with Solaro, Jacky and Hott Like Detroit in control with loads of support. Over in **The Bunker**, Anything Goes are unleashing a free for all with Blind Motive, K Royal, Ripley and Guy Shipley just a few of the selectors on the night. 8pm – 5am means there's a lot of time for you to lose yourselves to the music.

Club PST next for the New Year's Eve Mashup and this one sees more brands joining together to take you through until 2017; Payback Promotions, PST, Strictly Bangers and Unified Beats. The main room is Payback Promotions territory and is a junglist paradise with Aries, Bladerunner, DJ Hybrid, DJ Stretch David Boomah and K-Jah & Vytol just a few of the artists taking to the turntables. Payback boss Andy Stringer said: "Massive thanks to everyone who came out and supported us in 2016, without you guys none of this would be possible, max respect to you all. This is the big one, the icing on the cake, Payback Promotions' first NYE event at PST and it's going to be special."

The Rooftop, meanwhile, is channelling strictly love and reggae vibes for the evening with Juggla, Feva, Bongo Damo, Love Tonic Sound Feat Cheshire Cat, Big John and Sticky Joe delivering some sweet Jamaican flavours, while downstairs in the basement it's frantic energy and gun fingers all round for a hard drum and bass tear-out as Unified Beatz take on Strictly Bangerz.

The **Hare & Hounds** has got yet another link-up between local promoters split across two rooms. The first is curated by Free-style, Young Culture and No Fakin and you can expect sound-clash vibes here with a blend of funk, breaks, hip-hop, reggae and bass. The second room is collaboration between Colore, Moodfix and Moulin Groove and offers alternative flavours. Over in Moseley, **The Dark Horse** has got a couple of tricks up their sleeve for their end of year party and it's 100 per cent free! They've gathered DJs from City of Colours, Jam Jah, Scratch Club, Haul & Pull and Youngculture.

The last one sees the **Rainbow Venues** taken over by a combination of powerhouse Birmingham brands, a tour de force fusion of Seedy Sonics and 02:31 with special guests Critical Music. The lineup is ridiculous as you'd expect. Happy New Year!

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Love Story stars in Grand reunion



Love Story for seniors – Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw, stars of the 1970 tearjerker, are reunited in Love Letters

HOLLYWOOD legends Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw, the stars of classic 1970 movie *Love Story*, are being reunited in a new play that's coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Tickets go on sale on Wednesday (January 4) for *Love Letters* by A R Gurney, which is being staged at the Lichfield Street theatre from November 13 to 18, 2017, as part of a UK tour.

It tells of two people who start writ-

ing to each other as children but fate determines to keep them apart for more than half a century, until they decide to defy fate.

Producer David Ian said: "I am absolutely thrilled to be bringing two such huge stars to the UK in this wonderful and moving play."

"Ali MacGraw and Ryan O'Neal [are] true Hollywood legends and it will be very special indeed to see them live on stage together."

The septuagenarian actors were two of the biggest names in 1970s cinema. O'Neal, former partner of Farrah Fawcett, also appeared in

such movies as *What's Up Doc?* Paper Moon, *Barry Lyndon* and *Nickelodeon*. MacGraw, former wife of screen legend Steve McQueen, also starred in *Goodbye Columbus*, *The Getaway*, *Convoy* and in TV series *The Winds of War* and *Dynasty*.

American playwright A R Gurney has written several plays including *The Dining Room*, *The Cocktail Hour*, *Sylvia* and *Ancestral Voices*.

Tickets for *Love Letters* can be bought online at grandtheatre.co.uk, by calling the box office on 01902 42 92 12 or visiting the theatre in person.

Psycho chiller

CLASSIC thriller *Gas Light* must be one of the few plays that has given rise to a term for psychological abuse, in that 'gaslighting' means making someone doubt their own sanity.

A fresh revival of crime writer Patrick Hamilton's play stars Kara Tointon as victimised wife Bella Manningham, a role vividly portrayed by Ingrid Bergman with an Oscar-winning performance in the 1944 movie.

Leading lady Kara Tointon has had West End stage success, was one of the stars of TV drama *Mr Selfridge*, won the 2013 series of *Strictly Come Dancing* and last year played Maria in ITV's *The Sound of Music Live!*

Also appearing in the spooky stage drama set in fog-bound Victorian London is Merlin actor Rupert Young, brother of singer Will, as her husband. Keith Allen plays a detective who makes a shocking discovery. He is a familiar face from stage, film and TV, still perhaps best known as the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham in TV's *Robin Hood*. He is also a father of six including pop singer Lily Allen and *Game of Thrones* star Alfie Allen.

Gaslight starts a UK tour at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre, where it runs from January 6 to 14, its only Midlands dates.

Band in music store acoustic set

ROCK band You Me At Six release fifth studio album, *Night People*, on Friday (January 6) and fans can get a preview when they appear that day at 5.30pm for an acoustic set and album signing at the hmv Birmingham.

A limited edition hmv exclusive picture disc vinyl version of the album will be available on a first come first served basis at the Bullring store. Wristbands will be available by pre-ordering the album from the store, one per person. Any remaining wristbands will be issued on the day for those buying the album.

The band will be in concert at Birmingham O2 Academy on April 10.

New Year party time at Brum venues

IT'S party time at venues across Birmingham.

New Year's Eve events include a Masquerade Ball as part of Propaganda at Birmingham's O2 Academy, while over in Digbeth it's the Sun City Old Skool Garage festival with 3,000 ravers expected to be dancing until 5am at the O2 Institute.

In Kings Heath the two rooms at the Hare and Hounds will give a choice of funk, reggae and hip hop at Soundclash or house and disco in Club. Or bring 2016 to a rocking end at the city centre Sunflower Lounge with bands and DJs including The Mighty Young, Dirty Jane and Bad Girlfriend.

Bowie tribute close to first anniversary

JUST three days before the first anniversary of David Bowie's death, one of the top Bowie tribute acts, Jean Genie, will be presenting a homage to the influential rock star.

Walsall-based John Mainwaring has been performing his tribute to Bowie for more than 20 years and brings his show to Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Saturday, January 7.

Also coming up at the Robin this Friday is a soul night with Soul Survivors and New Amen Corner, then the annual T Rex-tasy New Year's Eve show, REM tribute Stipe on January 5 and Steely Dan tribute Nearly Dan on January 6.

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Henry Shields

Peter Pan Goes Wrong (BBC1, 6.20pm)

JM Barrie's Peter Pan is a festive staple, but the BBC has found a way to put a new twist on it, with the help of the Olivier-winning Mischief Theatre, creators of the award-winning stage comedy The Play That Goes Wrong. As with that West End hit, the idea is that the amateur Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society have been asked to put on a show – in this case, a production of Peter Pan as part of the BBC's commitment to community theatre. To add a touch of fairy dust to the production, the company will be making Peter Pan fly through the air, setting Captain Hook adrift in a lagoon and lighting up the stage with Tinkerbell and her electrical costume – what could possible go wrong? Quite a lot as it turns out!

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Sport Relief 2016: The Final Score. (R) **2.15** The Great Christmas Bake Off. (R) **3.15** Darcy Bussell: Looking for Marge. (R) **4.15** Final Score. **5.20** Top of the Pops New Year's Eve Special 2016.

6.20 **Peter Pan Goes Wrong.** The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society, otherwise known as comedy company Mischief Theatre, stage an elaborate – if somewhat ambitious – production of JM Barrie's celebrated fantasy.

7.25 BBC News.

7.45 **Regional Programme.**

7.45 **Pointless Celebrities.** Rich Hall, Shappi Khorsandi, Stan Lloyd, Fred MacAulay, Mark King, Stuart Maconie, Chemistry Alcott and Amy Williams all take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz show. (R)

8.35 **Casualty.** Rumours spread about Sebastian's accusation against Dylan, leading to a public confrontation. Meanwhile, Ethan decides it is time for him to stand up to Cal.

9.25 **The National Lottery Live.** Sophie Ellis-Bextor performs live in the studio, as Gaby Roslin introduces the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.35 **Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special.** Grandad's health causes concern, Mrs Brown steps in when a fire at the salon leaves Rory and Dino with nowhere to work, while Dermot faces stiff competition to win a contract. (R)

10.05 BBC News: Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.25 **The Graham Norton Show.** The host is joined by Assassin's Creed stars Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard, James McAvoy, Frank Skinner, and Olympic rowers Mary and Paul O'Donovan.

11.25 **Robbie Rocks Big Ben Live.** Melvin Odom presents live from Central Hall in Westminster, where Robbie Williams prepares to welcome in the new year with a concert, featuring some of his most memorable hits.

12.00 New Year's Eve Fireworks. **12.15** Robbie Rocks Big Ben Live. **12.45** Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show. (R) **1.45** Williams & Friend Christmas Special. (R)

BBC2

8.00 Robot Wars: Battle of the Stars. (R) **9.00** Robot Wars: Battle of the Stars. (R) **10.00** Film: You Again. (2010) **11.45** Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me. (R) **12.45** Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me. (R) **1.45** Film: We Dive at Dawn. (1943) Second World War adventure, starring John Mills. **3.20** Film: The Eagle Has Landed. (1976) Second World War spy adventure, with Michael Caine. **5.30** The Olympic Golden Ball.

6.00 **Film: What Women Want.** (2000) A freak accident gives a womanising executive the ability to hear the thoughts of the opposite sex. Embittered after losing out on promotion to a female colleague, he uses his newfound talent to exact revenge – but the insight it provides ultimately brings out an unexpected sensitive side. Romantic comedy, starring Mel Gibson.

8.00 **Life in Polar Bear Town with Gordon Buchanan.** Wildlife cameraman Gordon Buchanan visits the community of Churchill, Manitoba, on the shores of Canada's Hudson Bay. For two months every year, the people of Churchill must share their town with huge packs of polar bears, which gather at the bay every autumn to wait for the sea ice to form, so they can begin their winter hunt. Gordon goes on patrol with the "bear cops" charged with ensuring the towns residents – and the bears themselves – stay safe, and meets the bin-men who must dodge bears every day as they deliver refuse to the dump. He also illustrates the dangers of living in the "polar bear capital of the world" as he interviews a young woman who was mauled by a bear, right in the middle of Churchill's main street.

9.00 **Dragons' Den: Pitches to Riches?** Richard Osman relives some of the most intense moments from the past two years in the Den.

10.00 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches.

11.20 **Jools' Annual Hootenanny.** The veteran entertainer returns with his annual New Year's Eve extravaganza, with guest performances by Chaka Khan, Rag'n'Bone Man and many more.

1.25 Best of Glastonbury 2016. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Looped. (R) **8.15** Looped. (R) **8.30** Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **8.55** Adventure Time. (R) **9.10** Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.55** Film: Beethoven's 2nd. (1993) **11.30** Film: Mannequin. (1987) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.30** The Chase. (R) **4.30** Regional Programme. **Weather: 4.45** ITV News: Weather. **5.00** World of Sport Wrestling.

7.00 **Ninja Warrior UK.** New series. Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara return with the obstacle-course challenge, in which competitors from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage through a series of outlandish physical trials. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama – as they battle it out for the title of Ninja Warrior UK.

8.00 **Take Me Out Celebrity Special.** Paddy McGuinness invites three famous faces to take part in the dating game show. Entering the "love lift" this evening are model and former international rugby player Thom Evans, The Xtra Factor's social media monitor Roman Kemp, and 5ive's Ritchie Neville. All three will be hoping their wit, looks and star power will be enough to score a date with the ladies of Paddy's panel, who must keep their lights on as a sign of their approval.

9.00 **Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2.** (2011) The young wizard continues his search for the artefacts containing fragments of the dark lord Voldemort's soul. Time is running out, as the evil sorcerer is aware of Harry's mission, and marshals his forces for a final, devastating attack on Harry and his friends at Hogwarts school. Conclusion of the fantasy saga, with Daniel Radcliffe.

11.30 **ITV News: Weather; New Year Bongs.**

12.15 The Chase. (R) **1.10** Tipping Point. (R) **2.00** Rebound. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Film: Swiss Family Robinson. (1960) **8.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.50** Film: Big Miracle. (2012) **12.00** Film: Hachi: A Dog's Tale. (2009) **1.50** The Simpsons. (R) **2.15** The Simpsons. (R) **2.45** Film: Muppet Treasure Island. (1996) Musical puppet comedy, with Tim Curry. **4.50** Channel 4 News. **5.00** Amazing Spaces Snow Special. (R)

6.00 **Winnie-the-Pooh: The Most Famous Bear in the World.** Alan Titchmarsh celebrates the 90th anniversary of the creation of the Winnie-the-Pooh stories, which were originally written by AA Milne for his only child Christopher Robin, who featured as a character in the tales. On their first appearance, Milne's stories and poems featuring Pooh Bear became a publishing sensation, and Alan heads to Cotchford Farm in Sussex, where Milne created Pooh, to find out why they were capable of capturing the imaginations of millions. He also takes in the wild woodland that formed the basis for the Hundred Acre Wood, and visits Harrods toy department, where Milne first brought the toys that would later become the inspiration behind the likes of Pooh himself, along with his friends Piglet, Eeyore, Tigger, Kanga and Roo.

7.00 **Britain's Best Loved Sitcoms.** A nationwide, intergenerational poll seeking to identify the nation's most revered sitcom.

8.00 **Peter Cook & Dudley Moore: The Missing Sketches.** Rob Brydon gives a selection of celebrity fans, friends and colleagues a chance to see a selection of long-lost sketches performed by Peter Cook and Dudley Moore.

9.00 **Alan Carr's New Year Spectacular 2016.** The chat show host returns with his signature New Year's Eve party, as he runs riot around Channel 4 HQ to welcome in 2017, with help from guests including Danny Dyer, Keith Lemon, Greg Rutherford, Laura Whitmore, Sinitta, Will Mellor and Gemma Collins.

11.05 Gogglebox 2016. (R)

12.35 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2016. (R) **2.30** The Restoration Man. (R) **3.25** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.20** Countdown. (R) **5.05** Film: That Darn Cat. (1997)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.15** Film: Ben-Hur. (1959) Oscar-winning epic, starring Charlton Heston. **1.20** Film: Wyatt Earp. (1994) Western, starring Kevin Costner. **4.55** 5 News Weekend. **5.00** Another Audience with Ken Dodd. (R)

6.00 **Ken Dodd – In His Own Words.** Profile of the veteran comedian, who is still performing to packed houses at the age of 89, incorporating footage of some of his best performances alongside rare archive interviews and contributions from friends and colleagues and funny comics. The programme reveals how he was inspired by his father's love of variety shows and reveals the truth about the town's Knotty Ash that features heavily in his act.

8.00 **World's Strongest Man 2016.** Action from the final heat of the competition at Chobe National Park in Botswana, as reigning champion Brian Shaw made his bow in this year's contest, hoping to retain his title. Presented by James Richardson, Sarah-Jane Crawford and former strongman competitor Magnus Ver Magnusson, with commentary from Danny Wallace and Colin Bryce.

9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Huddersfield Town v Blackburn Rovers at the John Smith's Stadium, Brentford v Norwich City at Griffin Park and Wolverhampton Wanderers v Queens Park Rangers at Molineux.

10.00 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the latest matches in Leagues One and Two, including Bolton Wanderers v Scunthorpe United.

10.30 **Film: Pulp Fiction.** (1994) A series of interlinked stories about the Los Angeles underworld. Quentin Tarantino's crime drama, starring John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman and Bruce Willis. Part of the Tarantino's Bloody New Year strand.

1.20 Film: Reservoir Dogs. (1992) Thriller, starring Harvey Keitel. **3.05** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.10** Kitten Rescuers. Following the work of RSPCA inspectors, vets and volunteers. (R) **5.00** House Doctor. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Film: Show Boat (1951) **8.45** Sounds of the Sixties **8.55** Pop Go the Sixties **9.00** Dawn French Live: 30 Million Minutes **11.00** Timeshift: Looking for Mr Bond: 007 at the BBC **12.00** Premium Bond with Mark Goss and Matthew Sweet **12.55** 2016 A Year in the Life of a Year **1.25** Dawn French Live: 30 Million Minutes **3.20** Close

ITV2

11.50 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Kids **12.50** Celebrity Catchphrase **1.50** Grease: Live **4.40** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **5.40** FYI Daily **1.15** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **6.45** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **9.00** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **1.50** Celebrity Juice: Xmas Goggyboxers **2.40** Celebrity Juice: Bestest Unsenset Bits 2016 **3.30** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show: Best Of **4.40** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **4.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records: Bonkilyng Hit Hits **5.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records

ITV3

2.00 Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Our Murders at 90 **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Quarter **11.00** Foyle's War **12.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.40** Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale

ITV4

12.30 Film: The Land That Time Forgot (1975) **1.10** FYI Daily **1.15** Film: The Land That Time Forgot (1975) **2.05** Film: Where Eagles Dare (1968) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** Film: Where Eagles Dare (1968) **5.15** Film: The Green Berets (1968) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25** Film: The Green Berets (1968) **8.05** Film: Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15** Film: Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **11.00** Film: Gangs of New York (2002) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** Film: Gangs of New York (2002) **1.15** Film: Awake (2007)

E4

11.50 The Big Bang Theory **2.00** The Big Bang Theory: Festive Guests **3.30** Film: Big (1988) **5.40** Film: Cars (2006) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory: Festive Guests **9.00** Film: The Inbetweeners Movie (2011) **11.00** The Inbetweeners

Film4

11.00 The Princess Diaries (2001) **1.15** Thunderbirds Are Go! (1969) **3.05** Thunderbirds (2004) **4.50** Johnny English (2003) **6.35** Iron Man 2 (2010) **9.00** Thor (2011) **11.15** The Big Lebowski (1998) **1.35** The 36th Chamber of Shaolin (1978) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Benedict Cumberbatch

Sherlock (BBC1, 8.30pm)

Last New Year, we got the one-off Sherlock offering The Abominable Bride, which saw Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman solving a crime in Victorian London but failed to tell us whether Moriarty really had returned from the dead. Hopefully we'll get more answers as this hugely anticipated fourth series gets under way. Inspector Lestrade and Scotland Yard are baffled by a case, but Sherlock latches on to one detail in particular – why is someone going around destroying images of the former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher? Before any of her critics offer to give Sherlock some suggestions, it seems the key to the mystery may lie with Mary Watson and her dark past...

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 8.15 Match of the Day. (R) 9.40 Film: The Princess and the Frog. (2009) 11.10 Film: The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists! (2012) 12.35 Revolving Rhymes. (R) 1.05 Revolving Rhymes. (R) 1.35 BBC News; Weather. 1.50 The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message. 1.55 Songs of Praise. 2.30 Countryfile. 3.30 Planet Earth II: A World of Wonder. 5.00 Film: Monsters University. (2013) Premiere. Animated comedy prequel, with the voice of John Goodman.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 EastEnders. Ronnie and Jack's wedding day finally arrives, but with Roxie continuing to cause trouble it looks like the happy couple's dream day may well end in a nightmare.

8.00 Still Open All Hours. Granville buys a batch of devices that are supposed to create positive emotions. A local underworld boss is looking for Leroy after his girlfriend makes Mrs Hussein jealous.

8.30 Sherlock. New series. The detective returns to investigate the apparent return from the dead of his old enemy Moriarty, but another strange case is soon demanding his attention. Scotland Yard is baffled by a mysterious criminal who is defacing images of Margaret Thatcher, and Sherlock is convinced there is a more sinister purpose at work behind these acts of vandalism – which may have a connection to Mary Watson's dark past as an assassin. Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman and Amanda Abbington return for a fourth series of the detective drama.

10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special. Bono is being bullied at school and Mrs Brown's attempts to help her grandson only make things worse.

10.35 BBC News.

10.50 Regional Programme.

11.00 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, as Watford hosted Tottenham Hotspur at Vicarage Road and Arsenal played Crystal Palace at the Emirates Stadium.

12.05 Peter Pan Goes Wrong. (R) 1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.10 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Countryfile. (R) 6.55 Film: Camelot. (1967) 9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.15 New Year's Day Vienna Concert 2017. 12.45 Grand Tours Shorts. (R) 12.55 Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty. (R) 2.40 Alan Rickman: Talking Pictures. 3.10 Film: Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time. (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Jake Gyllenhaal. 4.55 Sign Zone: The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message. (R) 5.00 Wild Tales from the Village. (R)

6.00 Croft and Perry: The Sitcoms. Celebration of comedy writers Jimmy Perry and David Croft, creators of Dad's Army. It Ain't Half Hot Mum and Hi-de-Hi. Featuring contributions from cast members and famous fans. (R)

6.50 Dad's Army. Private Godfrey is at the centre of controversy as the platoon questions whether he is brave enough for the job. (R)

7.25 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and Wilson decide to recruit women into the platoon to take care of the less demanding tasks, but the captain loses his heart to an attractive widow. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham and Nick Jenkins cast judgment over more money-making schemes, including a bespoke gifting service run by two former army officers, a ticket comparison website, and a new safety device created by a pair of wealthy entrepreneurs. Presented by Evan Davis.

9.00 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise. New series. Series exploring the wildlife and culture of the Southeast Asian nation. The first episode examines the south of the country and the role of spirituality in daily life.

10.00 Film: What We Did on Our Holiday. (2014) Premiere. Three children give away all the secrets of their parents' troubled marriage while visiting their grandfather. Comedy drama, starring Rosamund Pike.

11.30 The Real Marigold on Tour: Japan. Part two of two. Chef Rosemary Shrager, actress Miriam Margulies, dancer Wayne Sleep and darts champion Bobby George investigate retirement in Japan. (R)

12.30 Judi Dench: All the World's Her Stage. (R) 1.30 Film: Henry V. (1989) 3.45 Sign Zone: Holby City. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooty. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Super 4. (R) 7.20 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.35 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.05 Scrambled!: A Grizzly New Year's Tale: The Crystal Eye. (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. 8.55 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) 9.10 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 Film: Carry On Cleo. (1964) 11.10 Chopping Block. (R) 12.10 ITV News; Weather. 12.15 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 1.00 ITV Racing Live. Ed Chamberlin and Oli Bell present coverage of races from Cheltenham and Musselburgh. 3.30 Ninja Warrior UK. (R) 4.30 Film: E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial. (1982) Sci-fi fantasy, with Henry Thomas.

6.40 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Diversity Presents Steal the Show. Members of the public compete for the chance to perform with the street dance troupe. Plus, workplace dance-offs and music from the Vamps.

8.00 Coronation Street. Anna is horrified when she regains consciousness and finds Phelan looming over her.

8.30 Morecambe and Wise's Funniest Moments. A countdown of the 20 most memorable moments from the double act's TV shows, voted for by a panel of comedy actors and comedians. The programme intersperses the sketches with contributions from famous fans and celebrities who recall their experiences of working with Eric and Ernie, including David Walliams, Jack and Michael Whitehall, Glenda Jackson, Paddy McGuinness, Angela Rippon, Des O'Connor, Jimmy Tarbuck, Richard Aykyle, Sarah Hadland and Andrew Previn.

10.30 ITV News: Weather.

10.45 Prince Harry. Documentary following the prince on his return to the southern African country of Lesotho to continue the work of Sentebale, the charity he set up there a decade ago. (R)

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 12th round of fixtures.

12.40 Jackpot247. 3.00 Chopping Block. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightstream.

CHANNEL 4

6.40 Film: The Love Bug. (1968) 8.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 9.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.00 New Year's Brunch. 12.55 The Simpsons. (R) 1.25 The Simpsons. (R) 1.55 The Simpsons. (R) 2.20 We're Going on a Bear Hunt. (R) 2.50 Gogglesprogs Christmas Special. (R) 3.50 Channel 4 News. 3.55 Film: Mirror Mirror. (2012) Fantasy, starring Julia Roberts.

6.00 Film: Rio 2. (2014) Premiere. Parrots Jewel and Blu lead a happy life together in Rio with their three chicks, until they find themselves hurled into an expedition up the Amazon. The journey leads to an encounter with an old enemy, while Blu also has to win the approval of Jewel's fearsome father. Animated comedy sequel, with the voices of Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway and Jamie Foxx.

8.00 Titanic: The New Evidence. Investigative journalist and Titanic expert Senan Molloy examines recently recovered photographs of the doomed ship, which provide fresh insight into the reasons for its sinking. The images reveal a strange mark on the hull, which may prove previously overlooked stories of a fire raging in the boiler room. This blaze may explain why the captain chose to ignore warnings of icebergs ahead and why the vessel sank so quickly after the fatal collision.

9.00 Film: Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol. (2011) Premiere. Secret agent Ethan Hunt and his team are implicated in a bombing at the Kremlin, forcing the American president to declare them fugitives. The spies plan to clear their name by abducting the real terrorist, which leads them into a pursuit around the globe. However, Hunt cannot be sure his colleagues are trustworthy. Action adventure sequel, starring Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg and Paula Patton.

11.35 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown New Year Special. Jon Richardson and Richard Osman take on Johnny Vegas and Sara Pascoe as Jimmy Carr hosts a special edition with a Hogmanay theme. David O'Doherty helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)

12.35 Rude Tube: Welcome to 2017. (R) 2.25 Trigger Happy Christmas Special. (R) 2.55 Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. 6.05 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.10 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.20 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 6.30 Film: Thomas & Friends: The Great Race. (2016) 7.45 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.10 Football on 5: The Championship. (R) 9.15 Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) 9.45 Big Bash Cricket Live. 1.25 Film: 101 Dalmatians. (1996) Disney comedy adventure remake, starring Glenn Close. 3.30 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. 5.35 The Adele Story. (R)

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2016. Action from the Grand Final of the competition, which took place at Chobe National Park in Botswana, as the 10 competitors who made it through the heats went head to head for the trophy. Events included the Super Yoke, Deadlift, Power Stairs and Atlas Stones. Presented by James Richardson, Sarah-Jane Crawford and former strongman competitor Magnus Ver Magnusson, with commentary from Danny Wallace and Colin Bryce. Last in the series.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) A seemingly dizzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrolls at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students do their best to humiliate her. Comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthew Davis and Victor Garber.

9.45 Film: Whitney Houston: A Tragic Love. (2015) Premiere. Biopic of Whitney Houston, focusing on her troubled marriage to singer Bobby Brown. The pair first met when both are at the height of their celebrity, and the pressure and rewards of fame have a devastating impact on their relationship and both of their lives. Starring Yaya DaCosta.

11.30 The Last Hours of Whitney Houston. Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of the singer in February 2012, with the post-mortem revealing the damage caused by years of drug and alcohol abuse. (R)

12.30 Lip Sync Battle UK: Katherine Ryan v Kayvan Novak. (R) 12.55 SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 New Year's Day Concert from Vienna 2017 **9.00** Flying Scotsman – Sounds From the Footplate **10.00** I'm Not in Love: The Story of 10cc **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1982 12.05 Pop Charts Britannia: 60 Years of the Top 10 **1.35** Forever Young – How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up **2.35** British Sitcom: 60 Years of Laughing at Ourselves **3.35** Close **ITV2**

12.15 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **2.00** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **3.00** FYI Daily **3.05** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **4.05** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.00** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **8.00** Film: Skyfall (2012) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** Film: Skyfall (2012) **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad!

ITV3

12.20 Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **1.20** FYI Daily **1.25** Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **2.05** Film: That's Carry On (1978) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10** Film: That's Carry On (1978) **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Endeavour **10.05** Birds of a Feather **11.45** FYI Daily **11.50** Film: Good Will Hunting (1997) **ITV4**

11.50 Pawn Stars **1.10** Film: Shalako (1968) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** Film: Shalako (1968) **3.25** Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35** Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **5.40** Film: Chisum (1970) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** Film: Chisum (1970) **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Premiership Rugby Union **10.00** Film: On Deadly Ground (1994) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** Film: On Deadly Ground (1994) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: Life on the Limit (2013) **1.55** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: Life on the Limit (2013)

E4

12.35 The Big Bang Theory: Festive Guests **8.00** We're Going on a Bear Hunt **9.35** The Big Bang Theory: 9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners 2 (2014) **11.00** The Inbetweeners 2 **2.35** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **3.25** Virtually Famous **Film4**

11.00 Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **12.45** Fantastic Four (2005) **2.50** Fast Girls (2012) **4.35** Volcano (1997) **6.35** The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011) **9.00** Aliens: Special Edition (1986) **12.00** An American Werewolf in London (1981) **1.55** Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010) **3.40** Close



Norma Aston – all my confidence is back

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Strictly Stunning

Salsa dancer Norma's new smile would get a 'ten from Len'

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) with an implant retained over-denture.

Adds Norma: "I knew what I wanted and already had in mind an implant denture.

"At the same time, my step-daughter was encouraging me to see her implant dentist, the well-respected Dr Owain Rees.

"Dental work is such a visual thing and unlike hospital surgical work we get to choose who undertakes it. It was so important for me that I made the correct choice."

Enthusiastic

Husband Don, a former design engineer and dance band frontman, who met Norma 32 years ago while playing at the Corpus Christi Centre, Wednesfield, takes up the story: "We'd done some research, but websites can really say anything and it's not the same as getting an impression face to face. When we saw Steven he was so enthusiastic about his work and instilled confidence in us that his clinic would be able to do the job well. But I had one searching question that was really important to me. I told him 'I know my wife' and then asked: 'Will she still be the same after the work is completed?'

"Steven was very reassuring and told me she would look the same, but with better teeth. We were never pressured and told



North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDG (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

to go away and think things through before making a decision."

With referrals in-house, Norma was seen by North Street Dental and Implant Clinic surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDG (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL). Under one roof, with four modern surgeries, the clinical discipline of high quality denture provision sits side by side with general, cosmetic and implant dentistry. Norma's treatment plan included intravenous sedation, the placing of six lower implants to support a removable overdenture and a traditional upper denture prescription. The former City Hospital accounts manager, says: "Knowing that Owain was going to do the surgery was great.

"He explained everything and I embraced the treatment plan.

"I'd always cared for my teeth, but I have a family history of gum problems and for more than 20 years I'd had a partial denture. I never realised it didn't fit properly until I saw Steven. I'd just grown into it.

"My new teeth . . . I couldn't ask for more and I'm amazed at the difference. They look so natural," she adds. Don agrees her new smile is "stunning."

Confidence is back

Norma enjoys a hectic lifestyle juggling dancing with personal commitments and volunteer stints at the Locksmith's House, Willenhall, a well-preserved piece of living Victorian history.

"I love working there and Don helps too. I used to be self-conscious of my smile when meeting people and was always careful how I smiled. Now I have all my confidence back and my only regret is that I didn't get my teeth sorted out three years ago."

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Eagle Eye, BBC1, 11.50pm
 Two strangers find themselves on the run from the authorities when they receive mysterious phone calls informing them their lives are in danger. Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan, Rosario Dawson and Michael Chiklis. (2008)

TUESDAY
Little Fockers, BBC1, 11.20pm
 Nurse Greg is now the proud father of twins, but has yet to earn the respect of his wife's stern father after 10 years of marriage. The couple invite both sides of their extended family to the kids' birthday party, where Greg makes a desperate effort to finally prove his worth to his father-in-law. Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro and Dustin Hoffman. (2010)

WEDNESDAY
The Shawshank Redemption, ITV, 10.40pm
 A banker is wrongly jailed for his wife's murder and over the course of a life sentence he forms a close friendship with a fellow inmate. Frank Darabont's drama, starring Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman, Bob Gunton, William Sadler and Gil Bellows. (1994)



The Shawshank Redemption, Thursday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY
Die Hard with a Vengeance, BBC1, 10.45pm
 New York cop John McClane returns to duty following an explosion at a department store in the city. The perpetrator contacts the police and tells them that unless McClane and an unfortunate bystander who was in the wrong place at the wrong time carry out a series of instructions to the letter, more bombs will be detonated. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Samuel L Jackson and Jeremy Irons. (1995)

FRIDAY
The Uninvited, BBC1, 12.25am
 A teenager is left traumatised by her mother's death in a fire, and is committed to a mental institution after trying to kill herself. A year later, she is released and reunited with her sister, but they both begin to suspect their new stepmother may have been responsible for the fire. Thriller, starring Emily Browning, Arielle Kebbel, David Strathairn and Elizabeth Banks. (2009)

Halcyon day's for fans of period dramas

If you're a fan of period dramas, you have probably been suffering from Downton Abbey and Mr Selfridge withdrawals over the past few months. The two hit shows ended last Christmas and March respectively, but we can finally keep calm and carry on tonight as The Halcyon makes its debut on ITV.

Two of the UK's most acclaimed actors, Steven Mackintosh and Olivia Williams, have joined forces for the series which tells the story of a bustling and glamorous five-star hotel at the centre of London society during the Second World War.

The eight-parter which also features Kara Tointon, Charity Wakefield, Alex Jennings, Matt Ryan, Hermione Corfield and Mark Benton, is set in 1940 and shows London life during the war and the impact it has on families, politics, relationships and work across every aspect of society. There is also a soundtrack of music from the era put together by award-winning singer-songwriter Jamie Cullum.

In tonight's opening episode, handsome American journalist Joe

O'Hara (Ryan) arrives in town and makes a bee-line for the Halcyon Hotel.

Meanwhile, the manager, Richard Garland (Mackintosh) and concierge Dennis Feldman (Benton) wait outside the hotel to greet the owner Lord Hamilton (Jennings).

Garland registers with some surprise the addition of Charity Lambert (Wakefield), a young, glamorous blonde, and they're followed by several other mystery men, all upper-class and white-haired.

Upon his arrival, O'Hara begins asking questions about the "serious cars" coming in earlier, and immediately smells a rat.

Lord Hamilton is holding a closed meeting, with Lords, MPs and influencers plotting how to instate Lord Halifax as Prime Minister, but it's clear that the room contains more than its fair share of Nazi sympathisers.

A surprise guest arrives at the hotel, in the form of Lady Hamilton (Williams), and the staff frantically collude to keep her out of the Royal Suite where her husband is with Charity.

Garland manages to cut her off and she departs, but an unspoken humiliation has occurred and she won't easily forget it.

Next, the Hamiltons' twin sons, Freddie (Jamie Blackley) and Toby (Edward Bluemel), arrive.

Freddie and Emma Garland (Hermione Corfield) are childhood friends and go down to their old haunt in the basement, where she senses a moment between them.

Later she confides in Betsey (Tointon) who tells her to put it out of her head – he's an aristocrat and she's just the manager's daughter.

The next day at breakfast, the Hamiltons are dining in the restaurant when Charity arrives, despite Emma's best efforts to fend her off.

Lady Hamilton is appalled, and while Freddie ushers her out, Toby snaps at his father, who responds by giving him a dressing down.

This is all witnessed by O'Hara who finds Toby smoking outside, strikes up a conversation and gets the young Hamilton to spill the beans about Charity's connections to the Fuhrer.



Olivia Williams stars in The Halcyon, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney BBC2, 9pm
 New series. An investigation into how recent archaeological finds on the archipelago indicate that Orkney was the cultural capital of Stone Age Britain and the birthplace of the stone circle cult. Chris Packham uncovers the secrets revealed by the DNA of Orkney's unique vole. Neil Oliver explores tombs and monuments, Shini Somara experiments to discover how ancient Orcadians could have moved giant blocks of stone over rough ground, and Andy Torbet climbs a sea-stack to unlock the story of Orkney's unusual geology.

Silent Witness BBC1, 9pm
 New series. Part one of two. A severed finger is brought to the Lyell Centre by DCI Rory Goodchild and immigration enforcement officer Pia Butler, who ask Nikki and Thomas to test for a DNA match with 17 year-old Syrian illegal immigrant Akka Khoury. The teenager was sent the digit by a people-smuggler who claims to have her mother and is demanding money for her safe return. Meanwhile, Akka's 12 year-old cousin Sosa is trying to enter the UK illegally hidden in a van on a cross-channel ferry. Emilia Fox stars.

TUESDAY
Robson Crusoe: A Surprising Adventure ITV, 9pm
 You get the feeling that somebody dreamed up the premise of this programme after thinking of the title. A conversation about it could have gone something like this, TV exec 1: 'Robson sounds a little like Robinson, so what Crusoe-like activity could he get up to?' TV exec 2: 'He could be stranded on a desert island!' TV exec 1: 'Yes! Let's go for it!' And so a show was born. Green claims he has long dreamed of living on a desert island, and now he gets a chance to do so when he's left stranded on a tiny land mass in the South China Seas. But will the experience be what he had hoped for?

Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch Channel 5, 9pm
 The fly-on-the-wall fun begins once more as Emma Willis invites another group of famous faces to move in together and have their every word and move recorded for the enjoyment of the viewing public. In a new twist, half of the famous residents are previous contestants returning for a second stay, having made their mark the first time round.



Death in Paradise, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
No Offence Channel 4, 9pm
 New series. DI Viv Deering returns to work after a few months off, and finds herself banging heads with a new boss – not to mention a powerful crime matriarch. Things kicks off at the funeral of a notorious local gangster's son, where the officers realise tensions could easily bubble over into a gangland war. Meanwhile, Joy and Tegan team up with the dodgy crematorium owners to piece together another case. Paul Abbott's crime comedy drama, starring Joanna Scanlan, Elaine Cassidy and Alexandra Roach.

THURSDAY
Death in Paradise BBC1, 9pm
 New series. A scientist studying a live volcano is found dead halfway up the mountain, and the evidence points to a heart attack. Humphrey is convinced one of the dead man's colleagues murdered him –

an unlikely possibility, since they all have alibis. Away from the investigation, the inspector eagerly awaits Martha's return to the island, while JP settles into married life and Dwayne makes an error of judgment while talking to a journalist. Kris Marshall, Josephine Jobert and Danny John-Jules star in the sun-soaked whodunit, with guest appearances from Douglas Hodge, Natasha Little and Sally Bretton.

FRIDAY
The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street vs Emmerdale ITV, 9pm
 If you think 2016 was a turbulent year in the 'real world', then just be thankful you don't live in Weatherfield or Emmerdale, where it's been one disaster after another. In the Dales, the Barton family alone lost both Holly and James last year, while on Coronation Street, Maria found herself starring in her very own version of Gone Girl and yet another of Gail Potter-Tilsley-Platt-Hillman-McIntyre-Rodwell's husbands met his maker. But just how much attention have the actors been paying to the storylines, especially those that don't affect their characters? Here's a chance to find out as Stephen Mulhern quizzes the stars of Emmerdale and Corrie – returning captains Mark 'Marlon Dingle' Charnock and Jack P. Shepherd, aka David Platt.

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MOTORING

ROAD TEST



Striking modern looks and instantly recognisable as a Ford Mustang

Mustang a car you want to be seen to be driving

By Graham Breeze

FORD MUSTANG 5.0 V8 GT, £35,745

It's easy to see why the Ford Mustang GT has quickly become the UK's most popular high-performance sports coupe.

With stunning looks and a five-litre V8 engine under the bonnet this Ford was always going to take the sports coupe sector by storm despite the best efforts of Jaguar, BMW, Porsche, Audi and the small band of other competitors.

Mustang arrived to great acclaim just over a year ago in Europe creating another page in the exciting Ford performance story, which continues with the success of ST, Fiesta ST200, Focus RS and GT.

There was no looking back after 6,500 enthusiasts applied to buy the all-new Ford GT in the first month – with over 500 of them from the UK. And the sales success continues at pace.

The Mustang is just the lift the company needed and despite striking modern looks it is instantly recognisable and as big a head-turner that you will in this price range.

Because the 5.0 V8 GT Fastback on test was priced competitively at £35,745, though extras such as premium paint, a custom pack including premium audio system with navigation, climate controlled seats,

reverse parking sensors and 19inch multi-spoke alloys took the price up to £38,135. But it's still the cheapest 5-litre sports car available.

The downsides of running a car like this are running costs of course. Because the five-litre unit produces 299 g/km of emissions and at best you'll be likely to ever average 20mpg, which with fuel costs at the pump rising at frightening levels is not good.

Handling

But the upside is a top speed of 155mph and 0-62 in just 4.8 seconds through a manual box, along with the feeling that you are behind the wheel of a much more expensive supercar. Automatic versions are £1,500 dearer.

And you have to hand it to the engineers at Ford who have come up with a chassis delivering superb handling, a comfortable ride, genuine space for two rear seat passengers and a boot that would easily house the golf clubs.

The Mustang stands out in any crowd with clear branding on boot and front grille and thanks to fully independent suspension, a souped up braking system and selectable driving modes,

really does give a safe feeling to driver and passengers.

You get a lot for your money too. Power folding door mirrors, 8" touchscreen controls, a nine speaker surround system, DAB, Bluetooth, Ford emergency assistance, automatic dipping headlights, rain-sensing wipers, reach and rake adjustable steering, power controlled front seats, a rear view camera and automatic temperature control are all standard items.

If anything will disappoint you about the first right hand drive Mustang it's probably the quality inside the cabin. Ford needed to target the model competitively and it's noticeable that the savings were made here – though it's certainly not enough to be a game changer situation, just a bit too much plastic perhaps.

Like every new Ford, the Mustang comes with a three-year, 60,000-mile warranty, which is backed up by one-year's breakdown assistance.

This Mustang is likely to keep Ford at the head of the sector sales despite high running and insurance costs – it's a car you just want to be seen driving.

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2008 08	XF PREMIUM LUXURY 2.7TDV6 DIESEL AUTOMATIC 5-Dr SATNAV leather alloys 7 service stamps luxury motoring	£9,999
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2012 12	COMPASS LIMITED 2.0 CRD DIESEL 5-Dr 4x4 FSH SATNAV in White black leather seats alloys aircon 44,000 miles	SOLD
KIA		
2010 60	VENGA 2 ECODYNAMICS 1.4 CRDI DIESEL 5-Dr alloy wheels aircon parking sensors 48746 miles with history RFL=£30	£4,999
LAND ROVER		
2007 07	DISCOVERY 3 HSE 2.7 TDV6 DIESEL AUTOMATIC 5-Dr 7 SEATS 19" alloys aircon sunroof SATNAV leather 79358 miles	£13,999
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2002 02	LEXUS RS300 5-Dr AUTOMATIC 5-Dr rare opportunity to own one these rare cars with leather	£2,999
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2010 60	ONE 1.6 CONVERTIBLE 2-Dr PETROL MANUAL RED aircon alloys with 40422 mileage	SOLD
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2013 13	JUKE 1.6 TEKNA 5-Dr alloys aircon black leather heated seats SATNAV look only 21121 miles top spec	SOLD
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2013 13	ANTARA SE NAV 2.2 CDTI DIESEL 4WD S/S 5-Dr SATNAV leather seats privacy glass 19" alloys aircon 46312 miles FSH	SOLD
2012 62	ANTARA SE NAV 2.2 CDTI DIESEL 4WD S/S 5-Dr SATNAV white leather seats privacy glass 19" alloys aircon 37225 miles	£10,999
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2011 11	POLO 1.2 MODA 5-Dr in Sunburst Yellow alloy wheels aircon privacy glass only 30704 miles & history	£6,499
2010 10	SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI DIESEL 170 GT 3-Dr 18" Alloy wheels aircon parking sensors only 54232 miles with history	£10,999
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2002 02	PEUGEOT 206 CC 1.6 BLACK SPECIAL EDITION COUPE CONVERTIBLE BLACK LEATHER INC NEW MOT	£990
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WEDNESDAY 28/12 9.00-5.30

THURSDAY 29/12 9.00-5.30
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Interest Charges	£1247.00

1 Final Payment of	£3665.00
Option to purchase fee	£10.00
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Civic Type R is a race car for the road but but loves behaving in everyday use

By Sharon Walters

It's a tough decision to make but by a fair margin my current choice of hot hatch is the excitingly fun to drive Honda Civic Type R.

This race car for the road has been around for about a year and marked the start of a new performance era for Honda – firmly putting the marque back in the spotlight.

Fans of the car had to wait five years for the updated Type R which has the most extreme and high-performing Type R engine ever built, a direct-injected turbocharged 2.0 litre VTEC TURBO petrol engine which delivers power, torque and performance figures unmatched in the front-wheel drive hot hatch segment. But it was worth waiting for. In the past year it has set new standards and is a breathless drive – where you want it to be!

It is a multi-award winner and a prototype lapped the formidable Nurburgring in 7:50.63.

And to set that in proper context, the time is just 10 seconds off the pace of the Porsche Cayman GT4. On top of that it beat the former front-wheel-drive record of 7:54.36 set by the Renault Mégane RS 275 Trophy-R.

And that proves just why it is a race car for the road. But at the same time this car loves behaving in everyday use.

Responsive

I haven't been lucky enough to take it round any race track but can vouch for its performance taking on winding country roads – where if you push the +R button the dash turns from white to a deep and glowing red. That button makes the already firm suspension 30 per cent stiffer, makes the throttle more responsive and the steering weights up.

The result is an athletic and lithe car wrapped around you. It certainly made me feel a lot younger and fitter! When you come out of a bend and hit the gas those extra sticky low profile tyres do simply glue the car to the road.

My commute to and from work around winding and usually deserted country roads in stunning countryside is always enjoyable in almost any car. But the Type R made me beam and beam and beam.

For cruising, especially for long distance motorway runs, it's best to put the chassis back into normal mode from R making the ride more comfortable.

Inside the standard Honda Civic Type R (£30,000 on the road) has a reasonable level of equipment, including 19-inch alloy wheels, keyless entry, climate and cruise control, a parking camera, LED headlights, hands-free Bluetooth phone and deflation warning system. I was one up in the GT which has just about everything you could want including more safety kit, dual-zone climate control, automatic wipers and headlights, all-round parking sensors and the all-singing all-dancing Honda CONNECT infotainment system (which you also get in the R) but with the addition of sat-nav, premium audio with 320w and eight speakers and a CD player.

Plus in both you get performance meters with displays of cornering g-forces and 0-62mph sprint times, as well as a series of LED gearshift lights that illuminate as you get close to maximum revs.

You also don't suffer from storage shortages, with fair-sized door pockets, a glovebox that can actually hold items, a decent central storage area and a coin tray. And you can get enough luggage in the boot for a holiday. Maybe not enough for a family but plenty for two.

There's loads of Alcantara, contrast stitching and red highlights on the dash, steering wheel and doors. The front seats are deep buckets making you think you are a racing driver, and while you have to be careful exiting if wearing a skirt they are very comfortable.

From the outside some might say it's a little too 'boy racerish' but I loved the deep front bumper with lots of scoops and cooling ducts, sexy flared wheel arches with massive 19-inch alloy wheels, and my favourite – quad exhausts.

Seriously hot hatch well worth the wait

A new year is coming and we have an unbelievable offer on the Civic 1.8 i-VTEC SE Plus Navi (while stocks last)



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Example: Honda Civic Hatchback 1.8 i-VTEC SE Plus Navi (Non metallic)

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Total deposit	£5,650.06
Amount of credit	£15,099.94
Interest charges	£2,586.75
Fixed rate of interest	3.04% p.a.
Representative APR	5.9%
47 monthly payments of	£219.00
Optional final payment	£7,393.69
Total amount payable	£23,336.75
Duration of agreement (months)	48
Annual mileage	6,000
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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda Civic 1.8 i-VTEC SE in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2), Combined 46.3 (6.1). CO₂ emissions 145g/km. Figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT CUSTOMER INFORMATION

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

Publication Thursday,
December 22. Deadline is
Thursday, December 15,
at 12 noon.

Publication Thursday,
December 29. Deadline is
Wednesday, December 21,
at 12 noon.

Publication Thursday,
January 5. Deadline is
Wednesday December 28, at
12 noon.

Please note that Reception
will be closed Monday 26,
Tuesday 27, Thursday 29 and
Monday, January 2.

BALL

William

(Bill)

Loving Husband of Joan,
Father, Grandfather and
Great-Grandfather.

Passed away December 20,
2016 in County Hospital,
Stafford.

The Funeral Service will take
place at St. Josephs Church,
Rugeley on Tuesday, January
3, at 12.00 followed by the
Committal at Stafford
Crematorium.

Family flowers only.
Donations kindly received
will be given to Alzheimer's
UK

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DAVIES

Gladys Irene

Sadly passed away on
Thursday, December 15, 2016,
aged 90 years.

Beloved Mom of Ivan, Michael
and Craig.

The Funeral Service is to be
held on Tuesday, January 3,
2017 at 2.30pm, at Stafford
Crematorium.

Family flowers only please.
Donations, if desired, for
British Heart Foundation.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street,
Cannock, WS11 1DH
01543 502322

EVANS

Vera

Passed away November 29.
Dear Aunt and best Friend,
will always be in our thoughts.

Love, John and Pat, Jayne and
John and all the Kids.

X

KEY

George Reginald

(Reg)

Passed away, December 10,
2016, aged 78 years.

He will be sadly missed by all
his Family and Friends.

Funeral Service will be held
at Stafford Crematorium, on
Wednesday, January 4, 2017
at 2.30pm.

Family flowers only please,
donations if desired for The
Midlands Air Ambulance c/o

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

PUGH

John

In loving memory of my
Brother who passed away
Thursday, December 15, 2016.

For in and out, above, about,
below, Tis nothing but a magic
shadow-show play'd in a box
whose candle is the sun,
round which we phantom
figures come and go.

From Brother Frank.

STUART

Alan

You were much loved and will
be sadly missed, in our hearts
you will always stay.

Sam, Richard and Reece.

STUART

Alan

As you rest in peaceful sleep,
memories of you we will keep.
Helen, Ant, Sophie, and
Carla.

STUART

Alan

You closed your eyes and fell
asleep, God took your hand
and gave you peace.

Sister-in-Law Liz and
Brother-in-Law Mick.

STUART

Alan

Always remembered.
God bless.
Rest in Peace.
Brother-in-Law Eddy.

THOMAS

David Edward

Sadly passed away peacefully
on Thursday, December 15,
2016, aged 69 years.

Much loved and missed by his
Family and all his Friends.

The Funeral Service is to be
held on Wednesday, January
4, 2017, at 11.30am, at Bush-
bury Crematorium, East
Chapel.

Flowers are welcome, but
donations, if preferred, can
be made for St Giles Hospice.

All inquiries c/o

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Family Funeral Directors
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01543 502322

in memoriam

MEAKIN

Tom

Three years December 30th.
Time passes so quick, but we
still have memories to
treasure.

Love always Maureen and
Family.

MYRING

Yvonne

20.05.54 - 26.12.12.

You left behind our broken
hearts and precious
memories.

But we've never wanted
memories, we only wanted
you.

Colin, Philip, Paul, Demi,
Brandon, Kelly, Porscher

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STATIC CARAVANS for sale on beautiful seaside holiday park, 12 month season, 2017 site fees inc. Finance available! T&C's apply. Call Paul on 07960 944721.

WINTER CARAVAN for sale. Quick sale needed. Situated on Brynwenen Holiday Park. Weekend and evening viewings available. Call or text 07493 108554.

holidays

caravan holidays

SEA SIDE SOMERSET HOLIDAY caravans to let. Half price OAPs. All caravans overlook the sea 01984 631 781 www.helwellbay.com

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for sale on 5* Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant. Child & pet friendly, 20 acres walking woodland £24,995 inc 2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326.

devon

PAIGNTON The Kingswinford

Dec - March offer
3 Nights B&B - £69 pp
Evening Meals on request

FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE
CHILD DISCOUNTS
All rooms en suite
100 yards to beach and pier
Contractors Welcome
01803 558358
www.kingswinfordhotel.com

3

Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

WURLITZER NEW YORK
New York CD Jukebox, holds 200 CD, mint condition, all receipts, £3,500 ono.
CUSTOM MADE POOL TABLE
6ftx4ft, pub style, mint condition never been used inc lights fittings etc £480 ono.
07860 673165
Genuine callers only.

furniture

Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katherine House. Reg charity 101172. Call us now on 01785 760715 for details or to arrange a FREE collection.

in your garden

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN FACED, only £1.75 inc. VAT. Ranton Building Supplies: 01543 278006.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, up doors and windows 01543 453222.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY
No amount is too small
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Bespoke • Doulton • Worcester Moccroft • Electro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre-1914 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID for antiques, vintage furniture, leather-winged arm chairs & Chesterfield settees.
01902 454144 or 0121 5263375

WANTED ANY OLD TOOLS CASH PAID
Hand tools, anything considered.
01543 452491 / 07539 340307

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

antiques

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers
Antique valuations first Wednesday of every month, 10am - 2pm
Ancient High House Museum, Staffs, ST16 2JA
01782 638100

ANTIQUES WANTED
Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins, Old wind-up Wrist and Pocket Watches
Paintings, Gold/Silver/Costume Jewellery
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 40 Years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

specialists at your service

aerials

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

VISA
CHECKATRADE.COM

bathrooms

J.R. Bathrooms & Wetrooms
Over 20 years experience in bathroom & kitchen installations, tiling/plastering, FREE QUOTES
07392 379741 or 01543 529648

building supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone, Cawarden 01869 574066, sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLs supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598/07941 619694.

cleaning

Sparkle Clean
Cleaning Services
A standard of Excellence
Office or Household cleaning
Discounted rates for regular customers
FREE Enquiries & quotes call
07818 238893

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing concrete posts, gravel boards £695
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, Wbury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

blinds

MADE-TO-MEASURE BLINDS SALE
UP TO **50% OFF**
BLINDS | CURTAINS | SHUTTERS | CARPETS
TO BOOK A FREE APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR CALL 0800 916 6563 OR VISIT HILLARYS.CO.UK
PLUS AN EXTRA **£25** OFF YOUR ENTIRE ORDER
WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £150
HAND THIS VOUCHER TO YOUR ADVISOR WHEN YOU PLACE YOUR ORDER
*T's & C's apply: Visit hillarys.co.uk for more details
HILLARYS

double glazing repairs
S.P.S windows, doors, glass units, locks, hinges, repairs / renewal, guaranteed. Call 07983 704889.

gardening services
OAKTREE TREE SERVICES
Covers all aspects of tree surgery, grass cutting and hedges. Garden clearances, turfing and fencing
07427 060382
Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

gas fitting
READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances
A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

kitchen fitters
NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

painters & decorators
DECORACE Painter & Decorator. Quality work at reasonable prices. OAP discounts. Free quotes 01902 635258 07876 135302.

plastering
M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

plumbing & heating
PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals
CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs: 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

removals
FURNITURE REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Call Keith on 07867 862227.

business directory

commercial premises

STORAGE UNIT TO LET
800 Sq Ft
Burntwood area.
Ring Michael Bailey,
07538 867585.

6

Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

properties wanted

Need to sell your home fast?

We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
01543 241 239
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whist Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5

Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.
Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

FreeAds

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7

Jobs

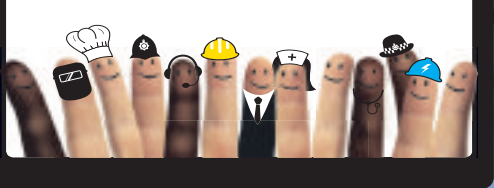
employment wanted

EXCELLENT WEST Bromwich Cleaner, trustworthy, reliable, hard-working, key holder, seeks extra hours. Anything considered. 07940 578374 after 3pm.

1000s OF JOBS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Register your CV today, visit:

jobs.expressandstar.com



WE CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR PERFECT JOB!

- CV UPLOAD
- JOB ALERTS
- CV MATCHING

Express & Star

FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

Bronze package includes:

- 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
- Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
- 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
- We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

Package Price £399*

JANUARY SPECIAL OFFER

Book a January recruitment package and get a second package at half price within 6 months

*All prices are subject to VAT

8

Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £1251 Four Hours £401
2 Hours £201 All Areas Covered
AD/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 486100 / 01562 870050
01384 224854 / 0121 5840090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 648469.

9

Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

THE COUNCIL IS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING PROPOSALS

Land at Blakeney Way, Kingswood Lakeside, Cannock
Case Officer - Richard Sunter

CH/16/465 - Erection of 2 No. distribution warehouses with associated offices, car parking and landscaping (B1, B2 & B8 uses)

All applications may be inspected at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Applications relating to Rugeley and Brereton may also be inspected at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley

The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the Planning Erection of 2 No. distribution warehouses with associated offices, car parking and landscaping (B1, B2 & B8 uses) Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge.

If you wish to make comments or representations about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG or by email to developmentcontrol@cannockchasedc.gov.uk by 12/01/2017 Please include a daytime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate reference when calling or writing.

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL



01902 317878

Classified Ads

MOTORS SERVICES



MOT's

Special Offer

Car MOT £35.00

Which?
Trusted trader

Free tea and coffee while you wait

Book your MOT test online at www.motcannock.co.uk

Free retests with no time limits

Prompt appointments

Burdock Close, Hawks Green, Cannock

Open Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6.00pm Saturday 8.00am - 1.00pm

HAWKS GREEN
MOT Test Centre

Cannock

www.motcannock.co.uk

Tel: 01543 578628

www.motcannock.co.uk

FULL SERVICE & MOT FROM £126

BOOK ONLINE NOW or GET OUR FREE APP

www.umscannock.co.uk

Winter Service from £69.99

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our customers See you in 2017

We will be closed from 23rd December and reopen on 3rd January

UNIVERSAL MOTOR SERVICES
TELEPHONE: 01543 509174

MOTOR INDUSTRY CODE OF PRACTICE

Service And Repair Approved

Peace of mind for motorists

Collection & Delivery Service Available

Email: universalmotorservices@yahoo.co.uk Unit 16, Martindale Industrial Estate, Hawks Green, Cannock WS11 7XN

Breakers

Just Affords

REDBROOK LANE, RUGELEY

01889 582197 • 07970 442184

END OF LIFE VEHICLES CASH PAID

WE WILL ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF DESTRUCTION FOR THE D.V.L.A. WITH EVERY VEHICLE COLLECTED

SPECIALISTS IN BREAKING FORD VEHICLES

Environment Agency Registered

MOT CENTRE

Tyres

Trent Valley Tyres Ltd

MOBILE TYRE FITTING

WE WILL CALL AT YOUR HOME OR WORK PLACE AND CHANGE YOUR TYRE

Even take old tyres away

TYRON BAND Specialist

Champro 328
Provides a smooth ride under high speed driving conditions and delivers outstanding wet handling performance

Champro HPX
Specially designed to perform superbly on wet and dry roads whilst maintaining precise control at high speed

Champro 228
The Champro 228 combines fuel saving rolling resistance and premium driving comfort with high safety standards

• CAR TYRES
• CARAVAN TYRES
• VAN & 4x4 TYRES
• EXHAUSTS, ETC
• BATTERIES
• VAN TYRE SPECIALISTS
• TRUCK TYRES
• TRACTOR TYRES
• ATV TYRES
• EXHAUSTS
• SHOCK ABSORBERS

6 Brick Kiln Way, The Levels Industrial Estate, Brereton, Rugeley
www.trentvalleytyres.co.uk email: neil@trentvalleytyres.co.uk

Free tea/coffee whilst you wait

Monday-Friday 8.30 am-5.30 pm, Saturday 8.30 am-1.00 pm

Tel: 01889 586666 / 01889 582771

DUNLOP **Firestone** **GOODYEAR** **MICHELIN** **PIRELLI**

Scrap Vehicles

SCRAP CARS WANTED

FREE COLLECTION OF SCRAP ALL MAKES & MODELS

FORD TRANSITS WANTED

Vans, Lorries & Trailers GOOD PRICES PAID ANY CAR CONSIDERED

NEW STOCK IN DAILY

07831 209821

CHASE CAR SPARES & SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS

UP TO £1000.00 FOR UNWANTED CARS & COMMERCIALS

OVER 200 CARS BREAKING FITTING SERVICE

SCRAP METAL WANTED!

IRON, STEEL, COPPER, BRASS, LEAD, ALLOY, CABLE, ELECTRIC MOTORS, FACTORY & SITE CLEARANCE, FREE SKIP & SITE COLLECTION

TYRES FROM £10.00

Unbeatable on quality & price FREE fitting with this advert

Full Licensed and DVLA Certificate of Destruction Issued

TYRES, SPARES AND SCRAP METAL

01543 428 080
07973 842 815 24 hrs



The Sport Active is designed for Sports Cars and powerful saloons and hot hatch.

From B/C Segment GTi to powerful fleet Limousines and Sport Three Door Coupes.

Excellent on road handling. Optimal tire to road contact. Superb mileage. Reduced rolling resistance.

Local Specialists



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custom installs
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- Free estimate and call out
- Digital aerial & satellite installations
- HDMI distribution
- WiFi & internet points
- Internet smart TV points
- TV wall installations & bespoke cabling
- Home cinema & audio systems

10% OFF
with this voucher

Call Lee Forrester for further information
Tel: 01785 630119 or 01543 578230
Mob: 07866 674839

www.aerialav.co.uk Email: Lee@aerialav.co.uk
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Your local digital aerial specialists serving Cannock and the surrounding areas since 1999



Aerials upgraded/installed/repairs - extra viewing points to any room - TV/Digital box tuning svcs - same day service - no call out fee - work guaranteed and meter tested - competitive prices for quality products and services

The original and only Cannock Aerials... beware of rogue traders
Call Phil on 01543 50 62 64

Aerial Installation & Repairs

TV & Plasma Set Up

Digital Aerial Upgrades & Plasma TV Installation
Aerials Start From Just **£65**

Call **Prisma Aerials & CCTV**

01785 243500
07730 260862

ALL WORK GUARANTEED

- Free estimates • No call out charge
- Freesat • Sky Digital • Digital Aerials
- **CCTV Design and Install**
- Commercial work undertaken, covering all areas
- Home theatre systems fitted

RUGELEY AERIALS & SATELLITE SYSTEMS

CCTV-CAT 5, AERIALS INSTALLED, SKY/Freesat BOXES AND DISHES SUPPLIED AND FITTED

SURROUND SOUND • PLASMA/LCD TV'S INSTALLED AND WALL MOUNTED • MOTORISED SATELLITE SYSTEMS AND EUROPEAN STATIONS

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1960

CONTACT US FOR SERVICE, RELIABILITY AND COST

FREE Sky HD Box - Sky HD + Boxes in stock

For all NEW customers, Terms & conditions apply



A BUSINESS BUILT ON RECOMMENDATION

TEL: RUGELEY 01889 585481

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ACCOUNTANCY AND TAXATION

Self Assessment and all accountancy services for the self employed, rental incomes, partnerships and limited companies.

A prompt and reliable service at a sensible cost

For a free appointment please call:
Robert Ollerenshaw on: Shenstone

01543 481329

Email: ollerenshaw@btinternet.com www.ollerenshaw.co.uk

Evening appointments not a problem

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

McDOWALL PLUMBING & HEATING

Est. 1979

- All Aspects of Plumbing & Heating Undertaken
- Full Bathroom Installation
- Floor & Wall Tiling
- Full Central Heating Installed
- All Work Guaranteed
- 35 Years Experience
- City & Guilds Esp



FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

01889 620 030
07969 167 775

www.steamgeniemidlands.co.uk
E-mail: mark@steamgeniemidlands.co.uk

Steam Genie
Midlands
PROFESSIONAL
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
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Taylor's Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning
SENSIBLE PRICES

- No Gimmicks
- No Extras
- No Job Too Big or Small

01543 490319 or 07816 407233

**BUY LOCAL
SELL LOCAL**
01902 317878



ClassifiedAds

Appliance Repairs

REPAIRS, SPARES & SALES



FREE
Call Out

**WASHING MACHINES
TUMBLE DRYERS
ELECTRIC COOKERS**

FREE Delivery & Fitting On All Appliances

FREE Delivery on DIY Spares Over £10

Most makes Repaired | Hotpoint trained 35 years experience
Dyson Repairs & Spares

Re-conditioned Machines £149

12 Months Guarantee

REPAIR FORCE

Tel: 01543 275333 or 07966 267 308
45 Brownhills Road Norton Canes (opposite Co-op)

OPEN: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Sat 9am-4pm

Blinds & Curtains

Made to measure blinds
Ace Blinds (UK)

Verticals Roller Venetian Wood Slat Roman
NO OBLIGATION FREE QUOTATION
Free fitting Wide fabric choice Fast local service
Tel: 01543 378349 Mob: 07758 193415

Builders

Hartshorne Builders

Established 52 years

All Aspects of Building Work Undertaken

FOR A FREE QUOTE, CALL NICK

Tel: 01543 422939

Mobile: 07899 955360

Double Glazing

DOUBLE GLAZING SERVICES

Misted units replaced, lock and general repairs to doors patios and windows. Emergency lock call out. 30 years experience. The longest established and only repair

specialist in the area

Call: Mark Capewell
Call 01889 578654 or
Mobile 07802 277935



Double Glazing

WINDOW DOCTOR

GLAZING REPAIRS & LOCKSMITHS.
SERVICE & REPAIR FOR ALL DOORS & WINDOWS.
MISTY & BROKEN GLASS REPLACED.
WE REPAIR HANDLES, HINGES, SEALS, PATIO'S, WINDOW & DOOR LOCKS.
CONSERVATORY & GUTTERING LEAKS REPAIRED.

10 YR GUARANTEE
01543 504900 24 HRS
07748 108035
12 WELLINGTON DRIVE, CANNOCK WS11 1PU
Est 30 years

THE WINDOW MAN CANNOCK

Misted Up, Cloudy or Broken Down

Double Glazed Units Replaced From £25

5 Year Manufacturers Guarantee

All Window and Door Repairs

Windows, French Doors, Patio Doors

Stunning Coloured Composite Doors

For a Free Quote or Advice Please Call

01543 271961 or 07530 439314

Driveways

WESTCOT CONTRACTORS LTD

38 Years Experience
TARMACADAM CONCRETE BLOCK PAVING
LEADING DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS COVERING LICHFIELD AND STAFFORDSHIRE
• Domestic Drives • Patios • Tennis Courts construction
• Commercial car parks and roads • Vehicle access crossing highway approved
Free quotations - All work guaranteed
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Office **01543 251416**
email: westcot.contractors.ltd@gmail.com

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bright light electrical solutions
Keeping YOU switched ON!
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Installation maintenance testing

Dawson Electrical

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- REWIRES - FUSEBOARDS - SHOWERS - EXTRA SOCKETS - LIGHTS & MORE
- FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE - NO JOB TOO SMALL
- REASONABLE RATES - OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

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07411 208276 - 07970 779505
WWW.DAWSONELECTRICAL.CO.UK

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Home rewiring from £800
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07939 503905
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* Reasonable Rates
* Free Quotes
* No Call Out Charges
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Mobile: 07716 665850

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1

Call us on...
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2

E-mail us at...
Sarah.winfield.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...
Sarah Jones, Cannock Chronicle,
Queen Square, Cannock, WS11 1ES

Local Specialists



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Bringing gardens to life...



- FENCING PANELS
- TRELLIS WORK • GATES
- CONCRETE POSTS & GRAVEL BOARDS
- BESPOKE PANELS
- RAILS, POSTS & BOARDS
- GARDEN ACCESSORIES
- GARDEN BARK • DECKING

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Cannock Wood Street, Hazel Slade, Hednesford.
01543 425893
www.treeway.co.uk

OPEN MON-FRI 8AM-5.00PM SAT 8AM-1

Gardening

Harry Albert Tree Care

- Tree Work • Stump Grinding • Tree Removal
 - Hedges Cut • Ground Clearances • NO JOB too small
- All aspects of tree work undertaken including stump grinding and complete tree removal. Hedge work also undertaken at very competitive prices also ground clearances.

Licensed Waste Carrier. All work carried out by Harry
Please contact me on: 07946 442210 or 01889 583541
www.harryalbert.co.uk

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Patio's, Drives, Decking, Lawns,
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Drive
Cleaning.

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Mob: 07891 836676
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Flat pack furniture assembled
Doors hung
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UP GRADE YOUR LOCKS Established 2004
Euro Cylinder Supplied & Fitted 24 Hour Locksmith
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• No callout charge • Military trained
OAP discount
Call: **07798 762021**
01543 423868

Logs

LOGS LOGS LOGS LOGS

Logs - Builders Bags **£35.00**
Fire Sticks **£2.50 per net**
Logs small net **£3.00 per bag**
Digger & Driver available for hire

FREE Delivery
7 days a week
within 10 miles
of Cannock

Call **07831 209821**

Man With Van

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House or Office Removals

- Single items to full loads
- Local/long distance
- House Clearances
- Also rubbish cleared
- Cheap rates
- Call Steve 7 days a week

01785 715027
07814 088490

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Staffordshire's Joe Clarke makes a splash on his way to Olympic kayak gold



Wolverhampton-born gymnast Kristian Thomas



Swimmer Adam Peaty won Team GB's first gold medal at the 2016 Games



GB's Matthew Hudson-Smith during the men's 400m semi-final

Golden athletes play part in best ever Olympic haul

THOSE who thought London 2012 would be as good as it ever got for British Olympians clearly hadn't reckoned on an even more fantastic performance four years on.

Rio 2016 proved an unforgettable and record-breaking fortnight for Team GB, who smashed their previous best haul by clinching 67 medals.

They became the first country to increase their medal tally at the Games immediately following the one it hosted. The achievement also smashed the pre-Games target of 48, set by UK Sport.

Midlands athletes more than played their part in the triumph, most notably Staffordshire swimmer Adam Peaty, who became the first British male to be crowned Olympic champion in the pool since Adrian Moorhouse in 1988.

First

The 21-year-old twice broke his own world record en route to winning the 100 metres breaststroke, earning GB's first medal of the Games in a time of 57.13 seconds.

Water was something of a theme throughout the Midlands medallists, with Stone canoeist Joe Clarke claiming a brilliant gold in the kayak K1 event.

The 23-year-old had qualified third fastest for the final but posted a time of 88.53 seconds to take first place ahead of Slovenia's Peter Kauzer and Jiri

SPORTING REVIEW

By Joe Edwards

It was a case of so near yet so far for Wolverhampton's Kristian Thomas and the British men's gymnastics team.

Prskavec of the Czech Republic. At the time, it was Team GB's second gold of the Games.

Clarke, from Stafford and Stone Canoe Club, had qualified for Rio by winning trials at Lee Valley White Water Centre but was considered something of an outsider for a medal, before his stunning performance in the semi-finals brought him roaring into contention. In the final, Slovenia's Kauzer led with three canoeists remaining but his lead only lasted a few seconds when Clarke set the new mark.

Prskavec was next to go and had he not picked up a penalty then the Czech would have won gold.

One of the Games most memorable moments, from a British perspective at least, was provided by Shropshire-based Bryony Page's emotional reaction to claiming trampolining silver. The 25-year-old,

who lives near Whitchurch, became the first British woman to win a medal in the sport, which made its debut at the Games.

Elsewhere, however it was a case of so near yet so far for Wolverhampton's Kristian Thomas and the British men's gymnastics team. After claiming an historic bronze in the team event in London, hopes were high they could match that achievement or even go better this time around.

But after a dramatic and nerve-wracking final they were eventually edged out of the medals.

Thomas, who now lives in Cannock, also missed out on a medal in the individual floor final but saw team-mate Max Whitlock create history by becoming the first British male to win gold in an individual event, a feat he then repeated on the vault.

Pain

On the track, there were mixed fortunes for Wolverhampton's Matthew Hudson-Smith, who set a personal best in qualifying for the 400m final before suffering the pain of disqualification in the 4x400m relay.

The 21-year-old had taken four-tenths off his previous best time in the semi-finals of the individual event but could do nothing in the final as South Africa's Wayne van Niekerk broke Michael Johnson's 17-year-old record in the final.

There was frustration, meanwhile, for Wolverhampton sailor Alison Young, who finished well out of the medals in the laser radial class.

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McNally livid over Shrews festive fracas

FORMER Hednesford Town boss Bernard McNally has blasted a festive fracas at his old club Shrewsbury as 'throwing things back in the club's face'.

The Shrews legend also claimed the individuals involved in Shrewsbury's Christmas party altercation have let down team-mates with their behaviour.

Shrewsbury confirmed there had been an altercation at some point during the squad's trip to Dublin after reports appeared in a national newspaper accusing former Wolves striker Sylvan Ebanks-Blake of getting into a scrap with team-mate Jim O'Brien.

It is understood the Christmas plans were already in place before Paul Hurst's appointment as Shrewsbury boss in late October and no members of the management team were part of the trip.

Hurst had hoped the two-night break may spark extra spirit into his squad.

McNally, who made more than 250 appearances for Shrews across nine years, said: "For the 20 that'll behave okay, there'll always be one or two that spoil the party totally."

"This will be extremely frustrating for Paul because of what they've done, how they've got the team spirit and commitment together, and then something like this can be pivotal. It can change things so much. Paul will be thinking that we've made two steps forward and now we've gone four back."

"He'll have to get them all back together and let's hope they can because they've made many big strides recently."

"For me to hear it as a fan, it's very disappointing. The management will be livid and rightly so."

"Let's face it, the club have paid a lot of money for the team to fly out there and get team spirit in a bonding session and really those players involved have thrown things back in their face."

Late goal rescues point but Scholars end with 10 men

Stocksbridge Steels 1 Chasetown 1 CHASETOWN grabbed a late share of the spoils after fighting back from a goal down on Boxing Day.

Stocksbridge took the lead after 10 minutes. An in-swinging corner was missed by everyone and Liam McFadyen stabbed home unmarked at the far post. Chasetown had their first effort on the half-hour with a Jack Langston volley which was beaten away by David Reay.

The Scholars ended the half on top and on the stroke of half-time Mitch Piggon saw his shot cleared off the line. In the 65th minute, Ryan Wynter teed up Langston whose first time shot flashed over the bar.

Chasetown finally levelled in the 80th minute when Steels messed up a clearance and Piggon netted from outside the area - the Scholars' first ever goal at Stocksbridge's ground. But Chasetown finished the game with 10 men as Rhys Thompson saw red for two bookings.

Scholars now have two home games, kicking off with Rushden & Diamonds tonight (Thursday) at 7.45 and Basford on Monday, 3pm.

Bernard, 62, belts up to make grade



Andrew Leighton and Bernard Skeen

A MARTIAL artist has earned his 3rd Dan black belt grading - at the age of 62.

Bernard Skeen, a student of the Japanese martial art of Aikido and a member of Black Star Aikido, undertook the grading alongside Andrew Leighton, who at 31, is a man of half his age.

Leighton, an Instructor at Kuro Boshi Aikido Ryu, said: "It was a hard grading and an exhausting test for both of us."

Both candidates demonstrated un-armed combat techniques and showed the use of the wooden staff and the wooden sword that are used in Aikido training. Shihan Tony J Brown, chief

Martial arts

instructor and 6th Dan Aikido said: "Both students have supported me in teaching in Europe and throughout Great Britain this year. I am very proud to award them their 3rd Dan certificates."

The Black Star Aikido School trains on Mondays and Fridays from 7.30-9pm at Cheslyn Hay Village Hall, Pinfold Lane. Fees are £4, or £3 for the unwaged.

A few places remain for potential new students that may apply for enrolment in February via email at info@blackstaraikido.com

Gemma on the ball for England call

A PENKRIDGE student has been chosen to play for her country at football.

Wolgarston Year 9 pupil Gemma Lawley will represent the England Schools under-15s this season.

She was selected after successfully completing a series of trials, the last of which was held at Stafford Town on December 11. The final trial was a match between the best players from the north of England playing against the best players from the south.

As one of the 16-strong squad, Gemma will travel to Portugal during February half-term for an intensive training week ahead of the Bob Docherty Home Nations Tournament later in the year.

As well as representing the under-14s and under-15s girls teams at Wolgarston, Gemma is captain of Staffordshire under-14s and also plays for the West Bromwich Albion Academy. Her call-up follows on from Year 12 student Anna King, who represented England in the same tournament two years ago.

"We are extremely proud of Gemma and her fantastic achievements," said Matthew Skinner, PE teacher at the Cannock Road school.

Gemma could be followed onto the international scene, as Mr Skinner explained: "Our first team goalkeeper and captain Aidan Stone is through to the final trial for the under-18 side which will take place at Lilleshall just after Christmas."

Deadline looms to apply for boss role

APPLICATIONS for the vacant managerial post at Heath Hayes FC are being considered by the club's committee.

Anyone interested in the position has until Monday, January 2, to apply. The position was made vacant by the resignation of Simon Davies.

Heath Hayes are sixth from bottom of the Midland League. After a home game with fellow strugglers Pelsall Villa on Tuesday, they face a tricky trip to fifth-placed Hinckley on Monday.

To apply for the managerial role, email your football CV to heathhayescf@aol.com along with your contact details.

All enquiries will be considered and the club will contact every applicant after the deadline.

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PITMEN LOSE DERBY CLASH

Stafford Rangers 2 Hednesford Town 1 HEDNESFORD'S rivals took the bragging rights in the first league El Staffico for four years.

Kick off was delayed by 10 minutes on Boxing Day as 1,826 fans piled into Marston Road.

Both clubs created a number of half-chances in a lively opening and it was Stafford who took the lead on 22 minutes after a failed clearance.

The ball was played into former Pitmen striker Kyle Perry on the left-hand side of the box and he struck the ball across goal and neatly into the right-hand corner.

Hednesford had slowly been working their way into the game and were rewarded on 36 minutes when Tom Thorley picked up a loose ball in mid-field and played it out to Danny Glover on the right wing. He cut inside before finding the net with a crisp shot from the edge of the area.

Disallowed

A scrambled effort from Josh Gordon five minutes after the restart was disallowed for Stafford.

But it was only a matter of time before Boro regained the lead, Jack Sherratt's free-kick headed in at the near post by Kieran Morris on 62 minutes.

Hednesford struck the post in the last minute through Courtney Wildin.

The Pitmen face two home games against West Midlands rivals in their next two games; They entertain Stourbridge today (Thursday), 7.45pm kick off, before Halesowen Town visit Keys Park on Monday (January 2), kick off 3pm.

Meanwhile, Hednesford Town boss Paul Casey insists Cohen Bramall is doing the club proud after being assessed by Premier League giants Arsenal.

The 20-year-old, who can play as a left-back or on the left side of midfield, has had a two-day trial with the Gunners, followed by a further trial at Shrewsbury Town.

He has also spent time at Crystal Palace and Sheffield Wednesday.

"He is doing himself and the club proud," said Casey, who took over as Pitmen boss in November after McDonald left to take charge of National League outfit Solihull Moors.



Vinnie Mukendu in aerial action for the Pitmen during the Boxing Day derby at Stafford

Funding helps kit players out for winter

A CANNOCK football club has been given more than £1,000 to help it buy new jackets for nearly 200 players to wear during winter training.

Formed a year ago with just one team, FC Newlands has expanded rapidly over the last 12 months.

It now has eight squads and an academy group - running

from under-sevens to under-16s. The money was given The Mid-counties Co-operative and will help the club also fund futsal training sessions.

Club chairman Stuart Harris said: "We've grown quickly over the past year, and this grant is absolutely vital in ensuring our boys have everything they need to thrive, on and off the field."

Tracy Edwards, leadership team ambassador at The Mid-counties Co-operative, said: "Grassroots sport is undoubtedly a great way to improve the development of young people, and FC Newlands is a perfect example of the role a club can play in the community. "We're pleased to provide this grant."

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